

**MEDIEVAL CHRISTMAS** PARTIES, PRESENTS AND OLD ST NICK

# HISTORY

## REVEALED

BRINGING THE PAST TO LIFE  
ISSUE 24 // CHRISTMAS 2015 // £4.50



### PEARL HARBOR

Japan's deadly US raid

### CROMWELL VS THE KING

The crucial civil war battle at Naseby

# HISTORY'S 50 MOST INFAMOUS VILLAINS

**CRIME SPECIAL**

**PLUS: Crime and punishment  
in Britain, from the  
stocks to deportation**



### BURIED TREASURE

Britain's greatest  
Anglo-Saxon haul

RESTORATION,  
FIRE AND PLAGUE  
Samuel Pepys saw it all

### PONY EXPRESS

Death wish in  
the Wild West



# “ Speak French, Spanish or Italian as they are *really* spoken ”

Now you can improve or maintain your French, Spanish or Italian with the bi-monthly audio magazines, **Bien-dire**, **Punto y Coma** and **Tutto Italiano**.

*Bien-dire*, *Punto y Coma* and *Tutto italiano* are all published six times a year from France, Spain and Italy and include a glossy magazine packed full of lively, topical and original articles and in-depth interviews in French, Spanish or Italian to give you the inside track on French, Hispanic or Italian culture. Key words and phrases are glossed into English on the facing page. The articles, in turn, are narrated on the accompanying 60-minute audio CD to enable you to improve your listening comprehension and understand French, Spanish or Italian as it's really spoken. In addition, every feature is graded for difficulty so that you can assess your progress with each issue.

If you now want to be able to speak like a native, a subscription to *Bien-dire*, *Punto y Coma* or *Tutto italiano* will inspire, motivate and help you to achieve fluency.



## Key Benefits

- Speak French, Spanish or Italian with confidence by learning the language as it's *really* spoken
- Improve your vocabulary and listening comprehension
- Improve your knowledge of French, Hispanic or Italian culture
- Lively, relevant and up-to-date, authentic content
- Take advantage of on-going, portable and flexible learning

**SPECIAL OFFER**  
£51 Saving!

Subscribe Today to either *Bien-dire*, *Punto y Coma* or *Tutto italiano* for a year for just £89 (normal price £99) and you will receive an extra issue, worth over £16 for FREE, and a FREE electronic dictionary bookmark worth £24.99 - a combined saving of £51!



Order TODAY By calling  
0800 141 2210

Outside the UK call  
+44 117 927 2236

Or order by visiting our website:  
[www.languages-direct.com/HRV315](http://www.languages-direct.com/HRV315)

**Subscribe Today!**



01. Please send me a year's subscription (6 bi-monthly magazines and 6 accompanying audio CDs for £89) to **Bien-dire** French Audio Magazine + 1 Extra FREE Issue and a FREE French-English electronic dictionary!



02. Please send me a year's subscription (6 bi-monthly magazines and 6 accompanying audio CDs for £89) to **Punto y Coma** Spanish Audio Magazine + 1 Extra FREE Issue and a FREE Spanish-English electronic dictionary!



03. Please send me a year's subscription (6 bi-monthly magazines and 6 accompanying audio CDs for £89) to **Tutto italiano** Italian Audio Magazine + 1 Extra FREE Issue and a FREE Italian-English electronic dictionary!

Cheque: Cheque enclosed for £89 (payable to Languages Direct Ltd) ☐

or Card: Please charge my credit card for the sum of £89 only Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ Amex ☐

Card number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry date: \_\_\_\_\_ Card CVV Code: \_\_\_\_\_

First name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

☐

Please send your completed order form together with payment to:

**Languages Direct Ltd**

**FREEPOST RSKB-KSKR-LYLU, Bristol BS1 6UX**

Delivery: Your first issue should be with you within 10 days of receiving your order.

☐

**Outside the UK send to:**

Languages Direct, Spike Island, 133 Cumberland Road,  
Bristol, BS1 6UX, United Kingdom

**60 day money-back guarantee**

If for any reason *Bien-dire*, *Punto y Coma* or *Tutto italiano* is not for you, just let us know within 60 days, and we'll refund your subscription in FULL, and you can keep your first issue. If at any time later you decide to cancel, we'll refund you the cost of any unmailed issues.

To see our full range of excellent language learning materials visit [www.languages-direct.com](http://www.languages-direct.com)

Media Ref: HRV315

# Welcome



Fedor Dostoyevsky, the Russian author of *Crime and Punishment*, said that: **"The degree of civilisation in a society is revealed by entering its prisons."**

How right he was – our own look at crime and punishment reveals so much about **British society over the centuries**. Visiting time begins on page 28 – but not before we introduce the **historic villains whose lives have most fascinated us** down the years on page 13.

Away from the murky underworld, we have the usual mix of adventures, battles and characters. We've also added a sprinkle of festive cheer – if you've ever wondered why **we have to be good for goodness' sake**, turn to page 66!

This special crime issue doesn't leave much room for our usual 'Time Capsule' section, but it will return in full next month. In the meantime, from all at *History Revealed*, we wish you a very **merry Christmas and a peaceful 2016!**

**Paul McGuinness**  
Editor

*Paul*

## ON THE COVER

Your key to the big stories...



**COVER CRIMINALS**  
1: Elizabeth Bathory  
2: Jesse James  
3: The Krays  
4: Bonnie & Clyde  
5: Blackbeard  
6: Jack the Ripper  
7: Ned Kelly  
8: Al Capone  
9: Titus Oates  
10: Butch Cassidy  
11: Sundance Kid  
12: Dick Turpin  
13: Hierostratus  
14: Thomas 'Colonel' Blood

**Don't miss our January issue, on sale 7 January 2016**

## GET INVOLVED



Like us on Facebook:  
[facebook.com/HistoryRevealed](https://www.facebook.com/HistoryRevealed)



Follow us on Twitter:  
[twitter.com/HistoryRevMag](https://twitter.com/HistoryRevMag)



Email us:  
[haveyoursay@historyrevealed.com](mailto:haveyoursay@historyrevealed.com)



Or post: **Have Your Say**,  
*History Revealed*, Immediate  
Media, Tower House, Fairfax  
Street, Bristol BS1 3BN

## GET YOUR DIGITAL COPY



Digital versions of *History Revealed* are available for iOS, Kindle Fire, PC and Mac.

Visit iTunes, Amazon or [zinio.com](http://zinio.com) to find out more.

## THIS MONTH WE'VE LEARNED...

**8,000**

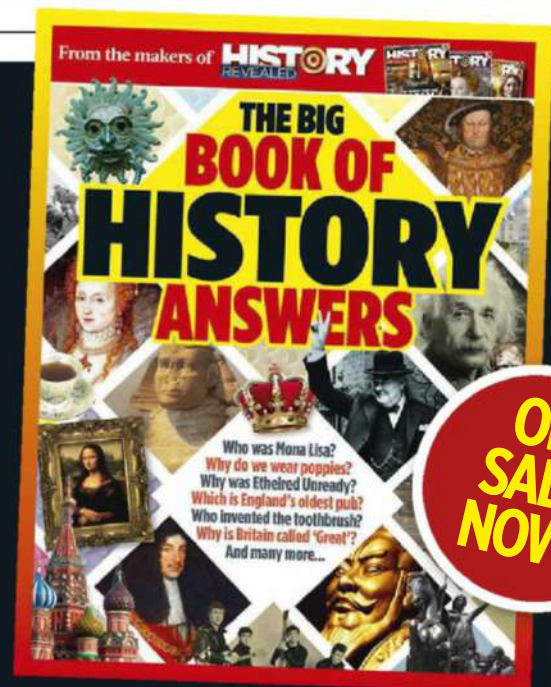
The number of men who died during training alone for the Royal Flying Corps in WWI. See page 87.

**1/3**

The proportion of London's population who attended serial escape artist Jack Sheppard's 1724 execution – an estimated 200,000 turned out. See page 35.

**380**

Miles ridden in 36 hours by 'Pony Bob' of the Wild West's legendary Pony Express. See page 68.



## THE PERFECT GIFT

Why not treat a loved one to the answers to history's most pressing questions this Christmas, with this special edition? See p46 for more details.



13

Centuries of theft, piracy, murder and mayhem: history's most notorious criminals rounded up

## CRIME SPECIAL

History is defined as much by murderers as it is by monarchs – not to forget thieves, tricksters and perjurers...

### COVER STORY 50 MOST INFAMOUS VILLAINS OF ALL TIME

A dastardly half-century of mobsters, robbers, con artists and serial killers .....p13

### COVER STORY CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

How miscreants were tracked, captured, tried and penalised.....p28

### COVER STORY THE FIRST FLEET

The epic voyage and creation of the convict colony that seeded a new nation Down Under..... p38

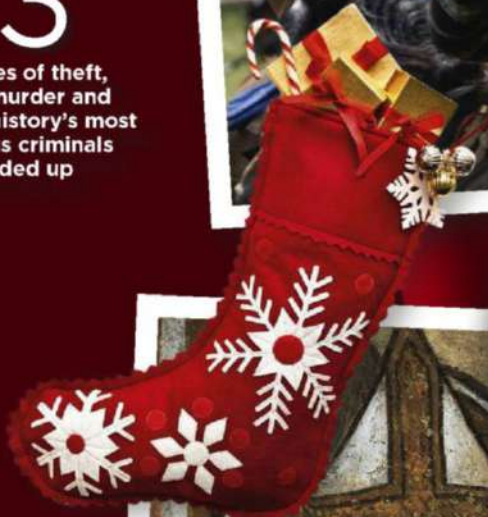
### COVER STORY GET HOOKED

Delve further into the murky world of crime .....p44



74

The clash at Naseby that turned the tide for the Parliamentarians



59

Dear diary... explore London's history through the words of Samuel Pepys

66

Stockings, speeches and Saint Nick – Top 10 Christmas traditions

## TIME CAPSULE THIS MONTH IN HISTORY...

### Snapshots

Take a look at the big picture .....p8

### I Read the News Today

Christmas, through the ages.....p10



THE DRAB FOUR  
Why wasn't the Beatles' Boxing Day film a real Christmas cracker? p10

## FEATURES

### DIGGING INTO HISTORY

#### History Makers: Eleanor of Aquitaine

The power behind the thrones.....p47

#### COVER STORY In Pictures: Pearl Harbor

The unexpected assault in the Pacific...p52

#### COVER STORY Samuel Pepys' diary

Britain's most famous chronicle.....p59

#### COVER STORY Top 10: Christmas

traditions From songs to spruces.p66

#### COVER STORY Great Adventures: Pony

Bob Fastest mailman in the west.....p68

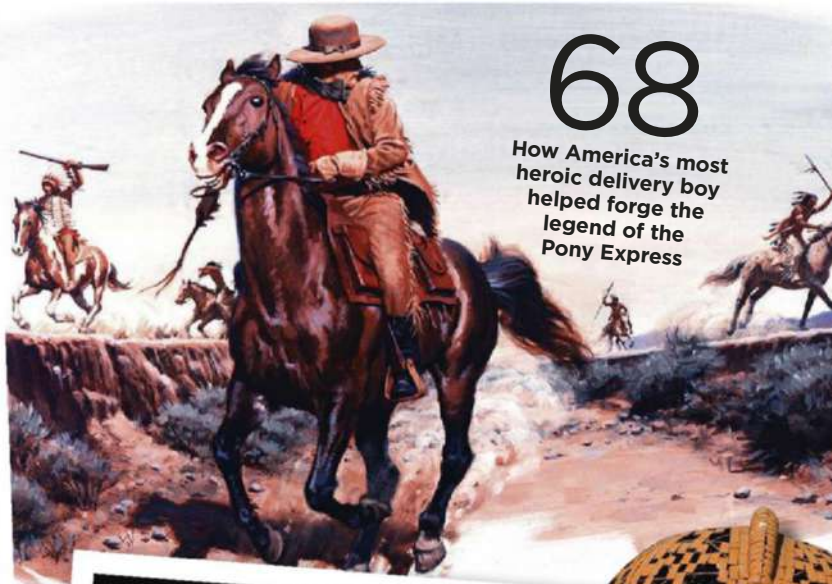
#### COVER STORY Battlefield: Naseby

How Oliver's army bested the Royalists.....p74



47

Eleanor of Aquitaine:  
Medieval  
Europe's most  
powerful woman



68

How America's most  
heroic delivery boy  
helped forge the  
legend of the  
Pony Express



52

The Japanese  
attack that drew  
the US into  
World War II

90

Discover the treasures  
unearthed at the  
Anglo-Saxon burials  
of Sutton Hoo

CHRISTMAS 2015



# CONTENTS

## Q&A

### Ask the Experts

Your questions answered.....p81

### In a Nutshell

What was the Spanish Inquisition?.....p83

### How Did They do That?

Tower Bridge.....p84

### TOP QUESTIONS

When did lovers first  
elope to Gretna Green?  
(p86); What was  
Christmas like in a  
Victorian prison? (p86)



## HERE & NOW

### On our Radar

Our pick of the exhibitions, activities,  
film and TV this month.....p88

### COVER STORY Britain's Treasures

Anglo-Saxon burials at Sutton Hoo....p90

### Books

The best new releases, plus read up  
on the evolution of maps.....p94

## EVERY ISSUE

Letters.....p6  
Crossword.....p96  
Next Issue.....p97  
A-Z of History.....p98

LIKE IT?  
**SUBSCRIBE!**  
**SAVE 44%!**

More details on our  
subscription offers on  
**page 26**



# READERS' LETTERS

Get in touch – share your opinions on history and our magazine

## RE-EVALUATING SUFFRAGETTES

It continually surprises me that there seems to be no room for debate about the actions of the Suffragettes (In Pictures, November 2015). These women were, in your words, “willing to face violence... and unspeakable brutality” for the right to vote. True, but decidedly

in what they fought for doesn't mean that we should approve of their ideologies or excuse their crimes.

If the Suffragettes were trying to prove that women were irrational, hysterical and incapable of making such important decisions, frankly

## “We admire Gandhi, Mandela and King for non-violence – but the Suffragettes for violence”

one-sided. The Suffragettes broke the law countless times, yet we forgive it; they blew up personal property, yet we rationalise and even support it; they nearly killed innocent people, yet we idolise it. It strikes me as more than a little hypocritical that we admire Gandhi, Mandela and Martin Luther King Jr for their non-violence, but the Suffragettes for their violence. Just because we now believe

they couldn't have done a better job. I firmly believe that it was women's contribution to the workforce during World War I that brought them the vote. However, more importantly I think there's something broken in the fact that popular culture doesn't question whether the Suffragettes were right to do what they did. If, after Emily Wilding Davison ran in front of the horse, the jockey had

LETTER OF THE MONTH

## JUSTIFIABLE VIOLENCE?

Were the Suffragettes' criminal deeds defensible, given the ultimate goal – or is our current perspective hypocritical?

died – or, for that matter, if the workmen due to arrive at David Lloyd George's house shortly after the Suffragettes blew it up had been killed in the blast – I think we would have a very different cultural memory of their actions.

As a 23-year-old woman, I don't think that those are the values that feminism should stand for, at least not uncontested. So let's talk about suffragists, and indeed the Chartists, and whether the Cat and Mouse Act was justified,

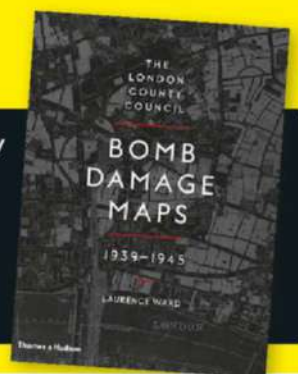
rather than just reaffirming popular opinion.

**Emma Richmond,**  
Warwickshire

## Editor replies:

Thanks for your well-argued comments. The justification for law-breaking is, of course, a separate debate, and perhaps not part of our remit at *History Revealed* – but an interesting discussion nonetheless.

Emma wins a copy of *The London County Council Bomb Damage Maps 1939-1945*, by Laurence Ward, published by Thames & Hudson, worth £48. Based on 1916 maps, this fascinating book not only records the scale of bomb damage but also provides a unique snapshot of the shape of the pre-war capital.



**f** The article on Pompeii was a great reminder of holidays gone by. Walking through the very streets where an ancient civilisation lived and performed everyday day tasks only to be buried in an unthinkable deluge from Mount Vesuvius is an amazing experience.  
@Gabby Cancellio

## SOMME SAVIOUR

The October 2015 issue featured a letter from Molly Sterry asking about the identity of the soldier shown in the famous footage of the Battle of the Somme, in which he looks straight into the camera while bearing a

wounded comrade on his back.

My grandfather, Frederick Thomas Taylor (1889–1956), was at the Battle of the Somme together with his brother, Francis. Later in World War I, he

was on two separate occasions awarded the Military Cross with one bar.

My mother, who was born in 1920, is certain that the man in the footage is her father, and family photographs bear a strong resemblance to the soldier in the film footage. I remember his wife, my grandmother, talking of his being there and narrowly escaping an enemy bullet that grazed the side of his head and clipped his ear. Although his citations do not appear to directly relate to the Battle of the Somme, they describe a man who, like the soldier in the

photograph, might be likely to carry a wounded comrade out of the trenches.

My great-uncle, Francis Maurice Taylor, born in 1896 or 1897, was a Lieutenant in the Royal Fusiliers, 10th Battalion, London Regiment; he died at the Battle of the Somme on 15 July 1916 and is buried at Thiepval Military Cemetery. He may have resembled his elder brother, and I am trying to find a photograph of him in the family collection. He is believed to have saved the life of a soldier in his regiment at the time of his death.

**Victoria Huxley,**  
Gloucestershire

**NAMELESS HERO**  
Could we have a clue to the identity of this brave soldier?



## A KING'S CUNNING

When Henry Tudor became king (The Extraordinary Tale of... Perkin Warbeck, November 2015), in the absence of any definite information about the fate of the two Princes in the Tower, he had a rather shaky grip on the throne and must have been expecting challenges to his reign.

When Henry actually saw Lambert Simnel, he must have seen only a terrified ten-year-old boy. It was an opportunity for him to laugh the whole thing off and demonstrate that he could be a merciful king by eventually sending the boy to work in the kitchens. Simnel seems to have been intelligent enough to realise his narrow escape, and served Henry loyally for the rest of his life.

The Perkin Warbeck challenge was a much more serious affair. Not being definitely sure that Warbeck wasn't of royal blood, Henry needed an excuse to execute him. Henry was a wily politician, and by giving favourable living conditions to his captive, he knew Warbeck would gradually become ever more overconfident. After Warbeck's last attempt at escape, Henry had the excuse that he needed for an execution.

The message was now clear to all future would-be imposters.

**James Wells,**  
Essex

Loving @HistoryRevMag November issue.  
Great articles on Agincourt, Suffragettes, the Gunpowder Plot and the Nuremberg Trials  
#HistoryGeek @ljpacey

## PLANTING AN IDEA

I read with great interest your article 'Up to no Wood' (I Read the News Today... August 2015), recounting the felling of a tree at least 4,844 year old. I thought your readers might also be interested know about the King's Holly, found by the late, great (in Tasmania, at least) Denny King. This tree was believed to have been cloning itself for at least 43,600 years,

## RED DEVIL

Reader Barry Clayton compares Stalin's evil with Hitler's

and perhaps up to 135,000 years, as indicated by the carbon dating of fossilised leaves found 8.5km away, from where the tree originated.

**Ken McGillick,**  
via email

Good start to a Saturday morning. Cup of tea and a copy of @HistoryRevMag.  
@\_PaulHamilton

## NATURE OF EVIL

How do you compare evil (History Makers: Joseph Stalin, December 2015)? By intention, numbers dead or consequences? It is a fruitless task.

Both Hitler and Stalin were ruthless. Both had narcissistic personalities. Both were paranoid. They viewed the suffering of others with indifference. The ends justified the means. Stalin was guilty of atrocities comparable to those of the Holocaust. Some calculations indicate that deaths during the Terror and Great Purge alone numbered twice that put to death by the Nazis.

However, there is a major difference. Stalin used terror and mass murder to secure political and social objectives. Hitler used the Holocaust for biological purposes. Mass murder for him wasn't an instrument but an end in itself.

Both men are excellent examples of what Arendt called the 'Banality of Evil'.

**Barry Clayton,**  
Lancashire

## NAZI MYTHS

There seems to be a myth that Nazis used human skin to make lampshades, used shrunken heads as paperweights, and used their victims' body fat for soap (Nazis in the Dock, November

2015). In the early 1980s, it was shown that the skin on display at the Nuremberg trials was goat skin, and that the heads were from monkeys. No self-respecting Nazi would ever have used fat from camp inmates on themselves.

**Farrar Von-Stringfellow,**  
Aberdeenshire

An excellent British mag, to which I subscribe and highly recommend - few ads, great articles and wonderful customer service. Not expensive either considering they have to ship it.  
David Kveragas

## ARE YOU A WINNER?

The lucky winners of the crossword from issue 22 are:  
**R Fennell**, West Midlands  
**Helen Dashwood**, Kent  
**John Renshaw**, Surrey  
Congratulations! You have each won a signed copy of *The Second World War on the Home Front* by Juliet Gardiner, worth £30. To tackle this month's crossword turn to page 96.

## GET IN TOUCH

### HOW TO CONTACT US

haveyoursay@historyrevealed.com  
facebook.com/HistoryRevealed  
twitter.com/HistoryRevMag  
Or post:  
Have Your Say, History Revealed,  
Immediate Media, Tower House,  
Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN



**HISTORY REVEALED**  
Bringing the past to life

### EDITORIAL

**Editor** Paul McGuinness  
paul.mcguinness@historyrevealed.com  
**Production Editor** Mel Sherwood  
mel.sherwood@historyrevealed.com  
**Staff Writer** Jonny Wilkes  
jonny.wilkes@historyrevealed.com

### ART

**Art Editor** Sheu-Kuei Ho  
**Picture Editor** Rosie McPherson  
**Illustrators** Dawn Cooper, Sue Gent, Chris Stocker

### CONTRIBUTORS & EXPERTS

Jon Bauckham, Florence Belbin, Paul Bloomfield, Emily Brand, Lottie Goldfinch, Julian Humphrys, Greg Jenner, Pat Kinsella, Sandra Lawrence, Jim Parsons, Scott Purnell, Miles Russell, Ellen Shlasko, Richard Smyth, Nige Tassell

### PRESS & PR

**Communications Manager**  
Dominic Lobley 0207 150 5015  
dominic.lobley@immediate.co.uk

### CIRCULATION

**Circulation Manager** Helen Seymour

### ADVERTISING & MARKETING

**Group Advertising Manager**  
Tom Drew tom.drew@immediate.co.uk  
**Advertisement Manager**  
Sam Jones 0117 314 8847  
sam.jones@immediate.co.uk  
**Brand Sales Executive**  
Sam Evanson 0117 314 8754  
sam.evanson@immediate.co.uk  
**Subscriptions Director**  
Jacky Perales-Morris  
**Senior Direct Marketing Executive**  
Natalie Medler

### PRODUCTION

**Production Director** Sarah Powell  
**Production Co-ordinator**  
Emily Mounter  
**Ad Co-ordinator** Jade O'Halloran  
**Ad Designer** Rachel Shircore  
**Reprographics** Rob Fletcher, Tony Hunt, Chris Sutch

### PUBLISHING

**Publisher** David Musgrove  
**Publishing Director** Andy Healy  
**Managing Director** Andy Marshall  
**Chairman** Stephen Alexander  
**Deputy Chairman** Peter Phippen  
**CEO** Tom Bureau

**Basic annual subscription rates**  
UK £51.87 **Eire/Europe** £56.25  
**ROW** £58

© Immediate Media Company Bristol 2015. All rights reserved. No part of History Revealed may be reproduced in any form or by any means either wholly or in part, without prior written permission of the publisher. Not to be resold, lent, hired out or otherwise disposed of by way of trade at more than the recommended retail price or in mutilated condition. Printed in the UK by William Gibbons Ltd. The publisher, editor and authors accept no responsibility in respect of any products, goods or services which may be advertised or referred to in this issue or for any errors, omissions, misstatements or mistakes in any such advertisements or references.

**IMMEDIATE MEDIA**  
CO





# TIME CAPSULE

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY





**SNAPSHOT**

# 1968 “ON THE GOOD EARTH”

These young boys from Virginia, USA, aren't staying up late on Christmas Eve 1968 in the hope of spotting Santa Claus, but to watch a historic television broadcast.

The crew of Apollo 8 – who have travelled further than any humans before – are transmitting while in the Moon's orbit, with an estimated 1 billion people lapping up the extraordinary images. Fully aware of the significance of this moment, astronauts Frank Borman, Jim Lovell and William Anders read a section of the creation story from the Book of Genesis, before signing off with: “Good night, good luck, a Merry Christmas – and God bless all of you, all of you on the good Earth.”

GETTY



## "I READ THE NEWS TODAY..."

The weird and wonderful of **Christmastime!**

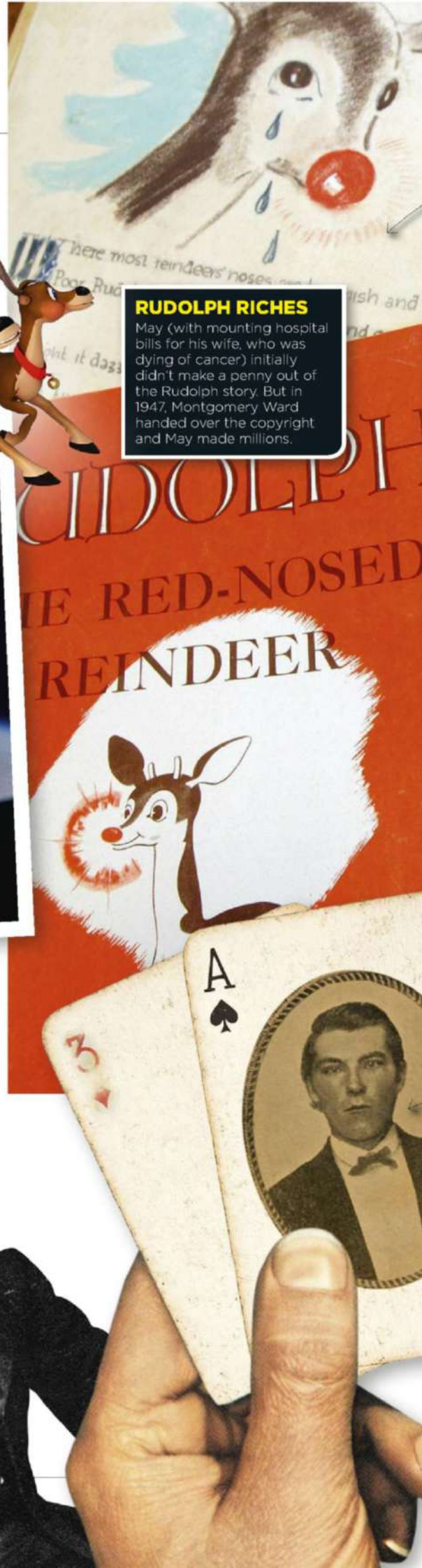
### NASA SPOTS UFO 1965 DASHING THROUGH THE... SPACE

For a moment in December 1965, everyone at NASA held their breath when Gemini 6 messaged them saying, "**We have an object, looks like a satellite going from north to south.**" But as confusion set in, astronauts Wally Schirra and Thomas Stafford added, "Looks like he might be going to re-enter soon" before the **sound of a harmonica** playing *Jingle Bells* could be heard over the radio. Realising they had just been stitched up, a controller at Mission Control replied: "You're too much!"



### RUDOLPH RICHES

May (with mounting hospital bills for his wife, who was dying of cancer) initially didn't make a penny out of the Rudolph story. But in 1947, Montgomery Ward handed over the copyright and May made millions.



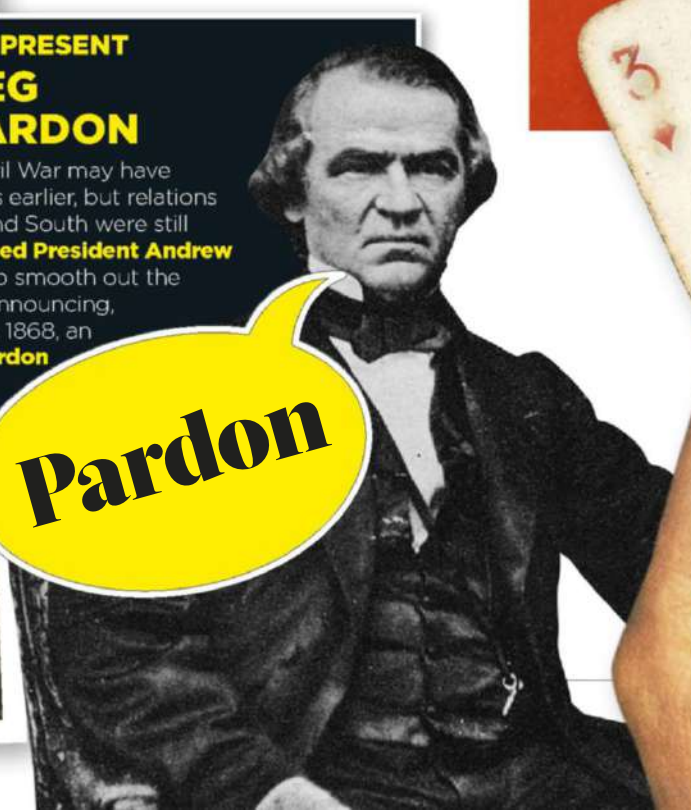
### CROWNING THE QUEEN OF THE FOREST 1947 TREE-MENDOUS GIFT

For many Londoners, the annual placing of the Trafalgar Square Christmas tree - standing at **20 metres and lit by 500 bulbs** - signals the start of the festive season. It is a tradition that began in 1947, when a tree was gifted from the city of Oslo as a symbol of gratitude for Britain's **support for Norway during World War II**. Since then, a Norwegian spruce has been selected every year to become the famous 'Queen of the Forest'.

### PRESIDENT'S PRESENT 1868 I BEG YOUR PARDON

The American Civil War may have ended three years earlier, but relations between North and South were still tense. The **besieged President Andrew Johnson** hoped to smooth out the rough peace by announcing, on Christmas Day 1868, an **unconditional pardon for all men** who fought for the Confederacy.

**Pardon**



## RED-NOSED REINDEER'S ROOTS 1939 THEN ONE FOGGY CHRISTMAS EVE

We all know how Rudolph saved Christmas, but that's not the **full story of how he joined Santa's sleigh**. In 1939, Chicago-based department store Montgomery Ward asked one of its copywriters – 34-year-old Robert L May (below, with his daughter) – to create a children's book for them to give away during the Christmas period. The result was a tale of a shy reindeer with a bright red nose who, according to May's notes, could have been called **Romeo, Reginald, Rollo or Rodney**. He settled on Rudolph and his book was a massive hit, with over 2 million distributed in the first year.



## TEXAS HOLD 'EM UP 1869 DRAW! CARDS OR GUN?

By the age of 16, John Wesley Hardin was already a killer and hardened outlaw of the American Old West. He loved **gambling both with his life and with cards**, as he proved in December 1869. Spending Christmas alone in the tiny Texan town of Towash, he got into a heated argument with a fellow card player, James Bradley, and **challenged him to a shoot-out**. In no mood to show any seasonal spirit, Hardin gunned Bradley down.

## THE BEATLES BOMB 1967 TRAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR

After four years at the top, the Beatles could do no wrong in the eyes of the public and media – until Boxing Day 1967. Their psychedelic *Magical Mystery Tour* TV film was broadcast by the BBC – but in black and white, rather than colour. **Stripped of its vibrant kaleidoscope**, the bizarre movie baffled those looking for festive fun. The critics slammed it, and many see it as marking **the beginning of the end** for the Fab Four.

## XMAS MARKS THE SPOT 1492 CHRISTMAS CATASTROPHE FOR SANTA (MARÍA)

It was Christopher Columbus's flagship on his **famous voyage to the New World**, but the *Santa María* suffered a undeservedly inglorious end. Late on Christmas Eve 1492, Columbus was exploring the Caribbean. The night was calm so most of the crew were asleep – **leaving a cabin boy at the helm**, who was unable to steer the ship away from the shallow waters. The *Santa María* struck a reef just off the coast of Haiti and was sunk, but not before its timbers were stripped to construct a rudimentary fort, which Columbus named *La Navidad* (Christmas).



## "...OH BOY" Christmas Day births and deaths

**25 DECEMBER 1642  
BORN: SIR ISAAC NEWTON**

English physicist and mathematician, influential in the Scientific Revolution.

**25 DECEMBER 1821  
BORN: CLARA BARTON**

Nurse in the American Civil War and founder of the American Red Cross.

**25 DECEMBER 1899  
BORN: HUMPHREY BOGART**

Iconic film noir actor, best-known for *Casablanca* and *The Big Sleep*.

**25 DECEMBER 1918  
BORN: ANWAR EL-SADAT**

Third President of Egypt, serving from 1970 until his assassination in 1981.

**25 DECEMBER 1946  
DIED: WC FIELDS**

One of America's greatest comedians and a star of early cinema with sound.

**25 DECEMBER 1977  
DIED: CHARLIE CHAPLIN**

Another film legend, this time in the silent era. Remembered as the 'Tramp'.

**25 DECEMBER 1989  
DIED: NICOLAE CEAUȘESCU**

After ruling Romania for 24 years, the Communist politician was shot.

**25 DECEMBER 2008  
DIED: EARTHA KITT**

American actress, singer and activist, whose career lasted over 50 years.

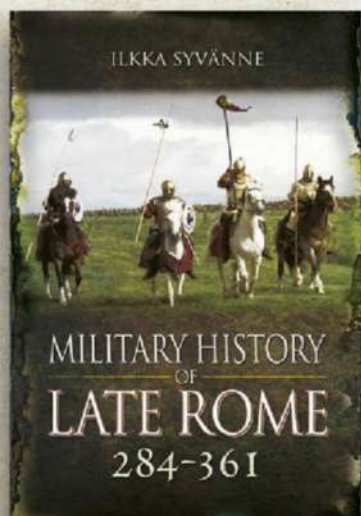
## AND FINALLY...

On Christmas Day 1974, 25-year-old Marshall Fields rammed the gate of the White House, **claimed he was the Messiah and that he was wearing an explosive vest**. After four hours of negotiations, he surrendered and the explosives turned out to be flares.

# PEN AND SWORD MILITARY BOOKS

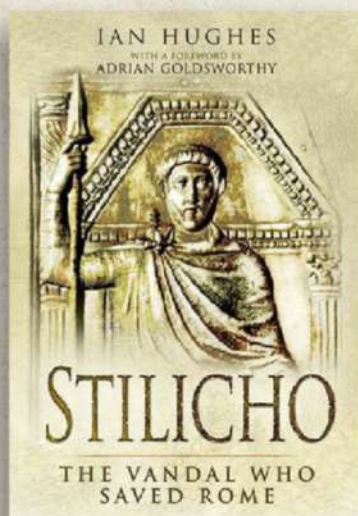


# 20% DISCOUNT!



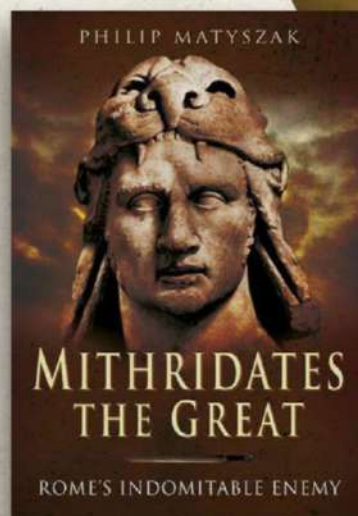
ISBN: 9781848848559

WAS £30.00  
NOW £24.00



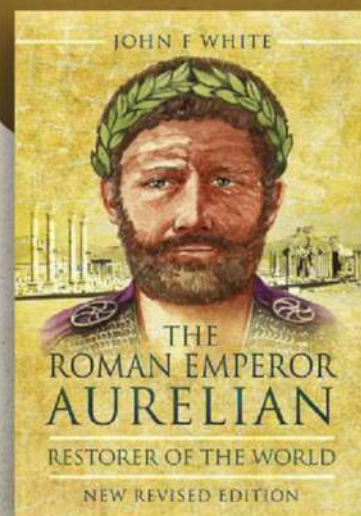
ISBN: 9781473829008

WAS £14.99  
NOW £11.99



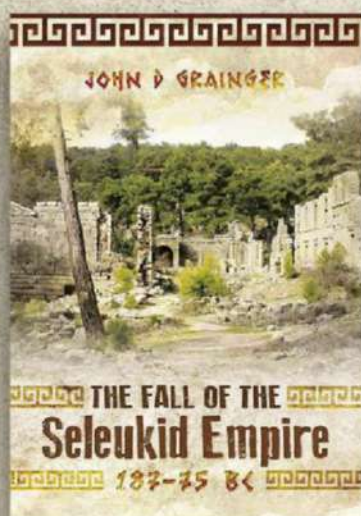
ISBN: 9781473828902

WAS £12.99  
NOW £10.39



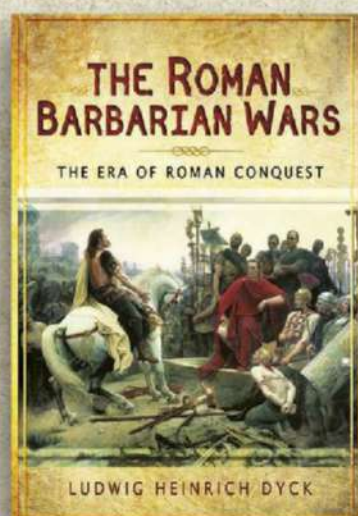
ISBN: 9781473845695

WAS £19.99  
NOW £15.99



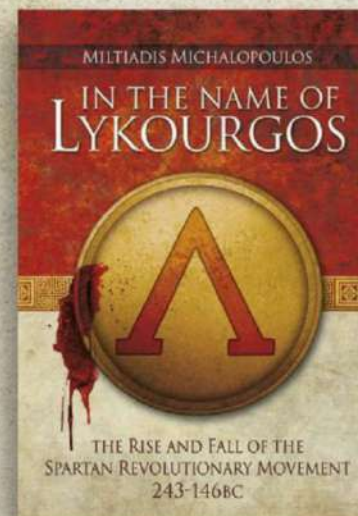
ISBN: 9781783030309

WAS £19.99  
NOW £15.99



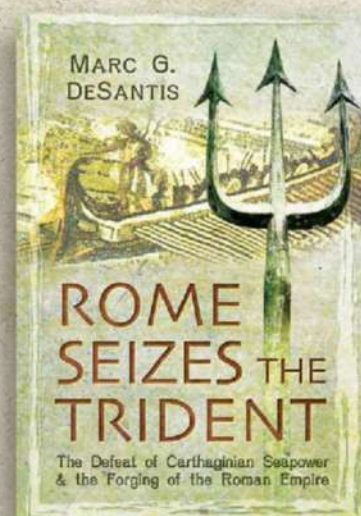
ISBN: 9781473823884

WAS £19.99  
NOW £15.99



ISBN: 9781783030231

WAS £25.00  
NOW £20.00



ISBN: 9781473826984

WAS £19.99  
NOW £15.99

TO ORDER PLEASE CALL:

## 01226 734222

ORDER ONLINE: [www.pen-and-sword.co.uk](http://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk)

PEN AND SWORD BOOKS LTD

47 CHURCH STREET • BARNSELY • SOUTH YORKSHIRE • S70 2AS





# CRIME SPECIAL HISTORY'S 50 MOST INFAMOUS VILLAINS

Bank robbers, pirates, con artists and serial killers – there are countless names that continue to horrify and fascinate. **Nige Tassell** runs down our top 50 who have made history for all the wrong reasons...



1: Elizabeth Báthory. 2: Jesse James.  
3: Bonnie and Clyde. 4: The Krays. 5: Blackbeard.  
6: Jack the Ripper. 7: Ned Kelly. 8: Al Capone.  
9: Titus Oates. 10: Butch Cassidy.  
11: The Sundance Kid. 12: Dick Turpin.  
13: Herostratus. 14: Thomas 'Colonel' Blood

*NB: In compiling our list, we chose to avoid selections from the very recent past for reasons of sensitivity. We also ruled out rulers – so we've not included any dangerous dictators, evil kings and queens, or tyrannical despots.*

## 50 WILLIE SUTTON

ACTIVE: 1912-52  
CRIME: **BANK ROBBER**



In an era where bankrobbers shed plenty of blood, Brooklynite Willie Sutton was a more gentlemanly stick-'em-up figure. He later admitted his gun was never loaded, and reportedly aborted any robbery if a woman or baby was screaming. His career, during which he stole in the region of \$2 million, lasted 40 years before his capture in 1952. Upon his release in 1970, he lectured on prison reform.

## 49 TOM HORN

ACTIVE: c1876-1903  
CRIME: **GUN FOR HIRE**



Horn had many lives – US Army scout, spy for the Pinkerton Detective Agency, prospector, cowboy and rodeo rider. Most notoriously, though, he was a gun for hire, implicated in 17 murders across the western states. In 1902, he was convicted of the murder of a 14-year-old sheep rancher in Wyoming and hanged the following year.

## 48 TILLY DEVINE

ACTIVE: 1920-55  
CRIME: **BROTHEL MADAM**



Born into a prominent South London crime family, the young Matilda Twiss was a teenage thief and prostitute. Then, at the age of 20, she followed her Australian husband Jim Devine to New South Wales where the couple ran brothels and became major drug

dealers. Devine became one of Australia's richest women. "I have more diamonds than the Queen of England," she once quipped. "And better ones too!" It all came crashing down in 1955, however, when she was ordered to pay more than £20,000 in unpaid income tax.

## 47 MEYER LANSKY

ACTIVE: c1918-83  
CRIME: **MAFIA BANKER**



The man better known as 'The Mob's Accountant', Polish-born Lansky teamed up with notable mobsters Bugsy Siegel and Lucky Luciano. Their gang was one of the most violent Mafia organisations in the US, allowing Lansky to amass substantial holdings in casinos in Las Vegas and pre-revolution Cuba. His only convictions were for illegal gambling and, upon his death, he was officially worth nothing, although his sharp accounting obscured a rumoured fortune of \$300 million.

## 46 HOWARD MARKS

ACTIVE: 1970-88  
CRIME: **DRUG SMUGGLER**



Through his memoirs and a subsequent film, the man known as 'Mr Nice' has become arguably the most recognised drug smuggler of recent times. Adopting more than 40 aliases, he went largely unrecognised by the authorities across the world until 1988 when he was arrested and sentenced to 25 years, of which he served seven. One of the Welsh-born Oxford graduate's innovative techniques was hiding cannabis in the speaker cabinets of fictitious British rock bands 'touring' the US.

## 45 CHARLES PEACE

ACTIVE: 1854-1879  
CRIME: **BURGLAR, MURDERER**

Over 25 years, the inappropriately named Peace committed many burglaries in London, Sheffield and Manchester. When he was sentenced to hang in 1879, however, it was for the murder of a neighbour, who he shot after becoming obsessed with his wife. Before his execution, he also confessed to shooting and killing a police officer.



**SWIFT JUSTICE**  
It took just 12 minutes for the jury to pass judgement at his trial in Leeds

## 44 HH HOLMES

ACTIVE: 1893-1896  
CRIME: **SERIAL KILLER**



The name Dr Henry Howard Holmes is largely followed by the words 'America's first serial killer'. The Chicago drugstore owner opened a hotel to cater for visitors to the city for the 1893 World's Fair, but the building was not what it seemed. Later known as his 'murder castle', its design included torture chambers and secret corridors where Holmes would suffocate, hang and gas his (mostly female) victims. When captured, he confessed to 27 murders, but he was believed to have actually taken up to a staggering 200 lives in just a few years.

## 43 CHARLES PONZI

ACTIVE: 1918-20  
CRIME: **SCAMMER**



Ponzi was an Italian-born fraudster and confidence trickster who hugely profited from a scam involving the purchase and reselling of international reply coupons. He conned millions to invest in the scheme, promising them a 100 per cent return within three months. At the scheme's height in 1920, Ponzi himself had made \$420,000 (\$5 million today). After conviction and incarceration, he saw out his days more modestly, working both for an airline and as a translator.

## 42 GEORGE C PARKER

ACTIVE: c1886-1928  
CRIME: **FRAUDSTER**



Arguably the most nerveless conman in history. He convinced newly arrived and financially comfortable immigrants that he was the owner of various New York City landmarks, including even the Statue of Liberty. He 'sold' Brooklyn Bridge an average two times a week for years, having highlighted the earning potential of charging tolls. As author Carl Sifakis notes, "several times Parker's victims had to be rousted from the bridge by police when they tried to erect toll barriers".

## 41 FRANK ABAGNALE

ACTIVE: 1963-69  
CRIME: **CON ARTIST**



Aged between 15 and 21 during his spree as an imposter, Abagnale posed as attorney, physician and even airline pilot. The latter was just to fly for free, but on one occasion he was given the plane's controls. He would later confess to how he was "Very much aware that I had been handed custody of 140 lives... I couldn't fly a kite." Abagnale's bravado

### ARMED AND DANGEROUS

To avoid detection by the police, Peace would wear a prosthetic arm in order to disguise the fact that he had a missing finger.

**VAMPIRE'S CASTLE**  
Báthory lured peasant girls to Čachtice Castle (modern-day Slovakia), promising them well-paid work

**40**

## ELIZABETH BÁTHORY

ACTIVE: 1585-1610

CRIME: **SERIAL KILLER, VAMPIRE?**

Born into nobility in 16th-century Transylvania, Countess Elizabeth Báthory is not only believed to be the world's first female serial killer, she may have been the source of vampirism in stories and myths. Responsible for around 80 murders of young women, although estimates place this figure higher, Báthory allegedly believed that drinking or bathing in the blood of virgins would extend her life. She obtained the blood through brutal and cruel torture.



**Báthory believed that drinking blood would extend her life**

was set out in Steven Spielberg's 2002 film *Catch Me If You Can*, starring Leonardo DiCaprio as the precocious trickster.

**39**

## ALBERT SPAGGIARI

ACTIVE: 1976

CRIME: **BANK ROBBER**



The mastermind behind one of the most audacious bank heists in history. In 1976, Spaggiari and his accomplices spent two months digging a tunnel underneath a branch of the Société Générale bank in Nice and made off with a haul, from around 400 security boxes, in excess of 30 million francs. Later arrested, Spaggiari escaped from the judge's office through an open window and onto a waiting motorbike. He remained free for the rest of his life after reportedly fleeing to Argentina.

**38**

## DOC HOLLIDAY

ACTIVE: c1880-1887

CRIME: **GUNFIGHTER**



After his associate Wyatt Earp, John Henry 'Doc' Holliday was the most famous participant in the 30-second legendary gunfight at the OK Corral in Tombstone, Arizona. A mild-mannered dentist by trade, his predilection for gambling led him into many fights and gun battles. Plenty of blood was on Holliday's middle-class hands, with Earp describing him as the "nerviest, speediest, deadliest man with a six-gun I ever knew".

**37**

## THOMAS BLOOD

ACTIVE: 1671

CRIME: **STEALING THE CROWN JEWELS**



Thomas 'Colonel' Blood was an Irish associate of Oliver Cromwell who, in 1671, made a foolhardy attempt to steal the Crown Jewels from the Tower of London. Having posed as a

parson, Blood and three accomplices attacked Talbot Edwards, keeper of the jewels, and made off with the loot, only to be captured shortly afterwards. Amazingly, Blood was pardoned by Charles II who gave him land in Ireland.

**36**

## GEORGE 'MACHINE GUN' KELLY

ACTIVE: 1920s-33

CRIME: **GANGSTER**



Initially a minor bootlegger in the Prohibition era, George Kelly's criminal career truly took off after he married Kathryn Thorne in 1930. As well as giving her husband his nickname, she also reportedly handed out spent

**34**

## BUGSY SIEGEL

ACTIVE: c1920-47

CRIME: **GANGSTER**



Benjamin 'Bugsy' Siegel remains one of the most glamorous American gangsters of the 20th-century, thanks to his associations with Hollywood A-listers (actress Jean Harlow was his daughter's godmother). He turned his hand to the gambling industry at the end of Prohibition, taking charge of illegal operations in California and Las Vegas. His pet project was the establishment of the Flamingo Hotel, costing the equivalent of \$60 million in today's money to build. But his defiance of the Mob soon cost him his life – he was gunned down at his girlfriend's Los Angeles home while relaxing reading a newspaper.

**35**

## VINCENZO PERUGGIA

ACTIVE: 1911

CRIME: **ART THIEF**

In 1911, the 30-year-old Italian committed the art world's most shocking theft when he stole the *Mona Lisa*. As a former employee at the Louvre in Paris, Peruggia used insider information to remove the painting from the museum, taking it back to his apartment under his old worker's smock before hiding it in a trunk for two years. He then took the painting back to Italy where he contacted a Florence art gallery owner who in turn alerted the police. Peruggia claimed to have committed the theft for patriotic reasons so that he could return the painting to his homeland "after it was stolen by Napoleon", unaware that Leonardo da Vinci had gifted the painting to Francis I of France more than 200 years before.



**NEGATIVE SPACE**  
Before its return, people queued outside the Louvre to see the empty space where *Mona Lisa* had hung

**33**

**LORD LUCAN**

ACTIVE: 1974

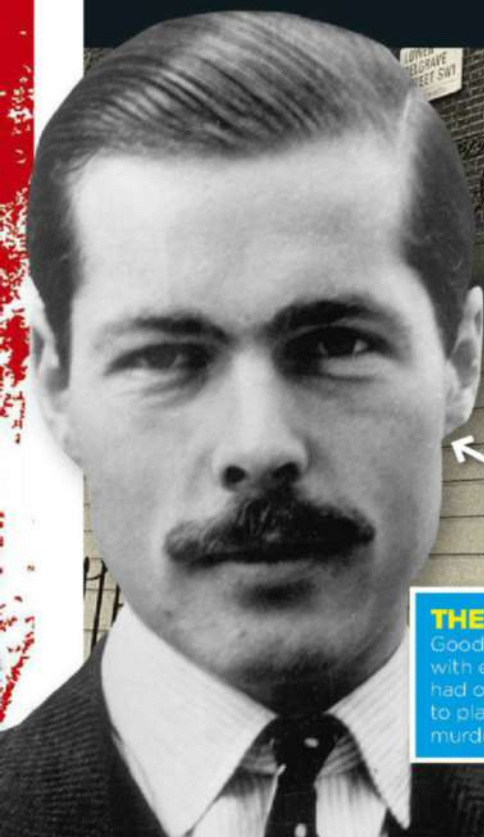
CRIME: **MURDERER**

Richard John Bingham, the Earl of Lucan, is the subject of one of the greatest mysteries of the last 50 years. After his son's nanny was found bludgeoned to death at the Lucan family home in London in 1974, the Earl was the prime suspect. A car Lucan was known to have borrowed was found on the south coast a few days later, splattered with blood and containing a length of lead piping, identical to the murder weapon. Lord Lucan has never been (officially) seen or heard from since.



**WRONG WOMAN**

The nanny, Sandra Rivett, was not supposed to have been in the house that evening, so it is likely that Lady Lucan was the intended target



**THE NAME'S LUCAN...**  
Good looking, charismatic and with expensive tastes, Lucan had once been in the running to play **James Bond** before the murder and his disappearance.



that he committed suicide before his pursuers could fire the fatal shot.

**30**

**PRETTY BOY FLOYD**

ACTIVE: 1925-34

CRIME: **BANK ROBBER**



"A mere boy. A pretty boy with apple cheeks." This was the description given in 1925 to St Louis police officers by a payroll master who'd just been robbed by a young man

with even younger looks. Like the similarly monickered Baby Face Nelson (see 21), Charles Floyd was another prominent bankrobber of the time who criss-crossed the Midwest in search of his targets, while viewing the elimination of law enforcement officers as an occupational hazard. He was ultimately gunned down in a Ohio cornfield while resisting arrest.

**29**

**AMELIA DYER**

ACTIVE: 1860s-1896

CRIME: **SERIAL KILLER**



The 'Angel Maker' sounds like a benign nickname, but it actually refers to the abhorrent crimes of a Victorian-era nurse from Bristol.

Although tried and executed for the murder of just one baby, Dyer was believed to have killed anywhere upwards of 400 infants. The service she offered – re-homing unwanted, illegitimate babies for a fee – often resulted in death, usually through malnutrition (Dyer administered opium, which suppressed the children's appetites) or strangulation.

**28**

**MARY ANN COTTON**

ACTIVE: 1865-73

CRIME: **MURDERER**



Cotton was a dressmaker from north-east England who stitched up three of her four husbands – by poisoning them and cashing in insurance policies. A lover of hers

also died suddenly, shortly after including Cotton in her will. As well as the murders of her husbands, suspicion was also aimed in Cotton's direction about the fate of her children. Only two of her 13 offspring survived into adulthood, with most dying from gastric disorders, a chief symptom of arsenic poisoning.

**32**

**THE BOSTON STRANGLER**

ACTIVE: 1962-64

CRIME: **MURDERER**



"A mad strangler is on the loose in Boston," was the chilling announcement in a July 1962 edition of the *Sunday Herald*. After four similar murders, a manhunt began for a lone serial killer, amid panic and fear. In all, 13 Massachusetts women were murdered in their own homes over an 18-month period. A former US soldier, Albert DeSalvo, admitted the killings but later withdrew his confession. Yet despite, after his death, DeSalvo's DNA being linked to the last murder, many still doubt that he was responsible for the deaths.

**31**

**PABLO ESCOBAR**

ACTIVE: 1970s-1993

CRIME: **DRUG LORD**



Pablo Emilio Escobar Gaviria was the most successful drug smuggler in history – the undisputed 'King of Cocaine'. As boss of the infamous Medellin cartel, he turned his

hometown of Colombia into the world's most dangerous. The country experienced more than 25,000 murders per year at the turn of the 1990s, with around 600 policemen executed on Escobar's orders. His personal fortune was well into the billions, but the authorities finally caught up with him in 1993 when he was killed in a rooftop shoot-out with the Colombia National Police – although his family maintain

**26**

**LUCKY LUCIANO**

ACTIVE: 1906-62

CRIME: **GANGSTER**



Born in Sicily, but raised on the Lower East Side of Manhattan since the age of nine, Salvatore Lucania – aka Lucky Luciano – is generally regarded as the blueprint for

27

**BLACK BART**

ACTIVE: 1875-83

CRIME: **OUTLAW**

The England-born Charles Bowes was a sophisticated gentleman robber who became known as 'Black Bart the Poet' because of poetic messages he left at the scene of some of his crimes. After being raised in New York state and fighting for Union forces in the American Civil War, Bowes became adept at holding up Wells Fargo stage coaches in California. Aside from the poetry, his modus operandi was a curious one. Unable to conquer his fear of horses, he reportedly conducted all 28 of his robberies on foot. And he never once fired his weapon.

*So blame the rich to feed the poor  
Which charity is a sin,  
As widows ne'er knocked at my door  
But what I let her in,  
So blame me not for what I've done  
I don't deserve your curses  
And if for any cause I'm hung  
Let it be for my verses*

*Black Bart  
The poet*

"So blame me not for what I've done, I don't deserve your curses. And if for any cause I'm hung, let it be for my verses," ends one poem attributed to Black Bart

**He conducted all 28 robberies on foot and he never fired his weapon**

American mobsters. Along with his associate Meyer Lansky (see 47), he formed the National Crime Syndicate, as well as being the head of the all-powerful Genovese family. Until his conviction in 1936 on prostitution charges, he had been arrested no fewer than 25 times, but no charges had stuck and he walked free every time. While in jail, he continued to run the family's operations, as he also did upon release in exile in Cuba.

25

**JOHN WILKES BOOTH**

ACTIVE: 1865

CRIME: **ASSASSIN**

Booth entered history as the first man to assassinate a President of the United States when he shot Abraham Lincoln in 1865. Booth, an actor who firmly believed in the Confederate cause and staunchly opposed the abolition of slavery, originally planned to kidnap Lincoln in exchange for Confederate prisoners. But in April 1865, upon General Robert Lee's

surrender to the Union, he learned of Lincoln attending a play at Ford's Theatre in Washington DC and swiftly formulated assassination plans. He shot the President in his private box, before leaping down onto the stage and escaping. He was tracked down nearly a fortnight later when

22

**HEROSTRATUS**

ACTIVE: 356 BC

CRIME: **ARSONIST**

He could be the first to commit a major crime in order to bathe in the resultant notoriety. Herostratus was an ordinary Greek citizen who, in 356 BC, burned down the magnificent Temple of Artemis in Ephesus, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. As he was trying to court notoriety, Herostratus made no attempt to avoid capture. The authorities, though, refused to play ball. As well as executing the arsonist to guard against copy-cat incidents, they also banned all use of his name both verbally and in writing, denying Herostratus, even posthumously, the celebrity he so eagerly craved.

he was fatally shot, reportedly saying "Tell my mother, I died for my country."

24

**FRANÇOIS L'OLONNAIS**

ACTIVE: 1660s

CRIME: **PIRATE**

There are bloodthirsty pirates and then there is François l'Olonnais. A French slave turned buccaneer, he was a thorn in the side of the Spanish Empire and its fleet in the Caribbean throughout the 1660s. His methods were among the most depraved of the time. One story tells of him cutting open a prisoner's chest, pulling out his heart and greedily feasting upon it. Ultimately, he got a taste of his own medicine. Run aground off Panama, he was set upon by the natives who, according to the contemporary writer Alexandre Exquemelin, "tore him in pieces alive, throwing his body limb by limb into the fire".

23

**JAMES EARL RAY**

ACTIVE: 1968

CRIME: **ASSASSIN**

Ray was the fugitive armed robber who fatally shot Martin Luther King on 4 April 1968. Fiercely prejudiced against African-Americans, Ray rented a room across the street from the Lorraine Motel in Memphis where King was staying and assassinated the Civil Rights leader as he stood on the hotel's second-floor balcony. After two months on the run, Ray was arrested at Heathrow Airport, en route to Belgium. Convicted and sentenced to 99 years, he later told King's son Dexter that he hadn't been responsible for the crime, prompting the King family to call for a re-trial.



**ARSON ABOUT**  
We came to know about Herostratus's antics thanks to Greek historian Theopompus

## 21 **BABY FACE NELSON**

ACTIVE: **1930-34**  
CRIME: **BANK ROBBER**



Lester Joe Gillis was ready for a life of crime at an early age, sent to the state reformatory at just 12. Under the name George Nelson – although more popularly known as ‘Baby Face’ due to his diminutive size and youthful looks – he robbed banks across the Midwest in characteristically trigger-happy fashion, often in the company of John Dillinger (see 8). The peak of his career came after Dillinger’s death in July 1934, when Nelson replaced him as the new Public Enemy Number One. The FBI pursued him with vigour and great resources, eventually nabbing their prey that November in a hail of bullets in Barrington, Illinois.

## 20 **LEE HARVEY OSWALD**

ACTIVE: **1963**  
CRIME: **ASSASSIN**



Lone gunman or puppet in a larger, more sinister conspiracy? The ongoing debate around Lee Harvey Oswald’s part in President John F Kennedy’s assassination in 1963 continues to fascinate. The Warren Commission concluded that Oswald, a New Orleans native with strong Communist ties, acted alone but, fuelled by the 1991 film *JFK*, concern still rumbles that there was at least one other gunman that November day in Dallas. At the time of his arrest, Oswald announced to the media that he was “just a patsy”, but the world never got to hear more from him. Within 48 hours, Oswald had been silenced by Jack Ruby’s revolver, an act some believe was the final part of the conspiracy jigsaw.

## 19 **DR CRIPPEN**

ACTIVE: **1910**  
CRIME: **SPOUSE MURDERER**



Hawley Harvey Crippen was an American homoeopathic doctor who lived in London with his wife, the music-hall singer Cora Turner. In 1910, after a party at their Holloway home, Cora disappeared. Crippen told the police that she absconded back to the States with her lover, right before he and his own lover fled, bound for Canada on the SS *Montrose*. While Crippen sailed across the Atlantic, body parts were found in the basement of his house and the murder became a newspaper sensation. When the ship’s captain recognised Crippen, he sent a wireless telegram to Scotland Yard, so, on arrival in Quebec, the doctor was intercepted by a detective. The doctor famously declared: “Thank God it’s over. The suspense has been too great. I couldn’t stand it any longer.”

## 18 **ANNE BONNY AND MARY READ**

ACTIVE: **c1718-21**  
CRIME: **PIRATES**



Bonny, born in County Cork, and Read, a native of Plymouth, are the most fearsome female pirates in history. Bonny was the lover, then wife, of legendary buccaneer ‘Calico Jack’ Rackham and enjoyed a reputation every bit as formidable as his. When they were joined by Read (both women were dressed as men), the trio captured and plundered many vessels in the Caribbean. But in 1720, off the coast of Jamaica, their ship was boarded by the Royal Navy. Most of the crew, including Rackham, disappeared below decks, leaving

Bonny and Read to fight the British forces. They were captured, but escaped execution as both were pregnant. Rackham went to the gallows, but not before one last visit from Bonny. “Had you fought like a man,” she sneered, “you need not have been hanged like a dog.”

## 16 **CHARLES MANSON**

ACTIVE: **1967-71**  
CRIME: **CULT LEADER**



Long-time petty criminal and small-time singer-songwriter with connections to the Beach Boys, Manson was the head of ‘The Manson Family’, a late-1960s Californian commune. They carried beliefs about an impending apocalypse, dubbed ‘Helter Skelter’ after the Beatles song of the same name. On Manson’s command, the Family committed a number of murders around Los Angeles in 1969, most notably that of the actress Sharon Tate, the heavily pregnant wife of film director Roman Polanski. Tate’s murder, along with the slaying of three others at her home, was a direct order by Manson to “totally destroy everyone in [at the house], as gruesome as you can”. Found guilty of conspiracy to murder nine people, Manson only escaped execution when California temporarily lifted the death penalty in 1971.

## 15 **BURKE AND HARE**

ACTIVE: **1828**  
CRIME: **MURDERERS**

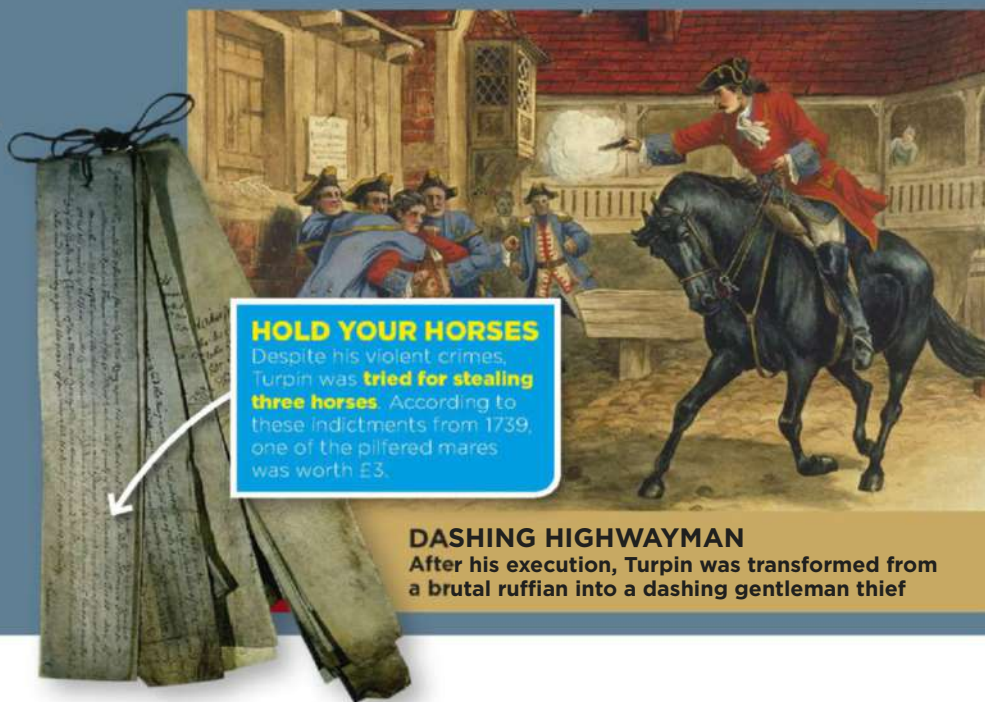


In 1827, Burke and Hare (two Irish labourers living in Edinburgh) had a problem. They were owed money by another resident of their lodging house, but he died before paying them back. The pair therefore

## 17 **DICK TURPIN**

ACTIVE: **1730s**  
CRIME: **HIGHWAYMAN**

The ultimate highwayman, Turpin – initially a legitimate butcher – embarked on a life of crime when, in his mid-20s, he joined a gang in Essex that specialised in deer thieving and violent burglaries. He made his first highway robbery in 1735 and, over the course of the next two years, apprehended innumerable stage coaches across the Home Counties. Under the name John Palmer, he was arrested on suspicion of horse theft, an offence recently upgraded as a crime punishable by death. But while in jail, a letter sent to his brother-in-law was intercepted and revealed his true identity. Turpin was hanged in 1739 in York, since when his legend – one that overlooks the deaths attributed to him – has been hugely romanticised in books and on screen.



### **HOLD YOUR HORSES**

Despite his violent crimes, Turpin was **tried for stealing three horses**. According to these indictments from 1739, one of the pilfered mares was worth £3.

### **DASHING HIGHWAYMAN**

After his execution, Turpin was transformed from a brutal ruffian into a dashing gentleman thief

decided to sell his body in order to claim back the debt. They sold the cadaver to Dr Robert Knox, a lecturer in anatomy at Edinburgh University, who paid them the handsome fee of £7 and ten shillings. Burke and Hare spotted a potentially lucrative trade, embarking on a series of murders in order to keep Knox well-supplied with corpses. After committing 16 murders, the pair were finally caught, at which point Hare elected to give evidence against his partner in crime. Accordingly, after Burke was executed in 1829, Hare went into hiding, presumably living under an assumed name, and the date of his death remains uncertain.

## 14 JACK SHEPPARD

ACTIVE: 1723-24  
CRIME: **ESCAPE ARTIST**



Despite being just 22 at the time of his hanging, Jack Sheppard piled plenty into his short life. Born into poverty, the young Londoner turned his back on life as an apprentice

carpenter in favour of earning a living as a burglar and pickpocket. Rather than his crimes, however, it was Sheppard's ability to bolt from captivity that gave his legend longevity. He escaped prison on four separate occasions in 1724 alone. Once, he dressed up in women's clothing; another time he made a rope using bedclothes and lowered himself to freedom. To the poor and disenfranchised, he became a cult hero, but his audacious escapes baited the self-styled 'Thief-Taker General' Jonathan Wild, a vigilante figure who operated on both sides of the law. Sheppard was caught and, before he could escape once again, hanged at Tyburn, in front of an enthusiastic 200,000-strong crowd.

## 13 BILLY THE KID

ACTIVE: 1870s-81  
CRIME: **WILD WEST OUTLAW**



"I don't blame you for writing of me as you have. You had to believe other stories, but then I don't know if anyone would believe anything good of me anyway." The words of Henry

McCarty – aka William Bonney or Billy The Kid – to the *Las Vegas Gazette* attempted to deflate some of the legend attributed to the teen outlaw. He was a newspaper editor's dream, an apparently wanton killer with a bounty on his head. Thought to have committed 21 murders (although this figure was later believed to have been closer to eight) as a result of life as a cattle rustler, McCarty was sentenced to death in 1881. However, having killed his guards, he escaped. It was three months before Pat Garrett, a former associate and now sheriff of Lincoln County, New Mexico, tracked him to the town of Fort Sumner and brought his young life to an end.



Teflon Don was convicted of multiple charges – murder, extortion, loansharking, racketeering and tax evasion to name a few

## He even issued a death threat to the singer Frank Sinatra

## 12 JOHN GOTTI

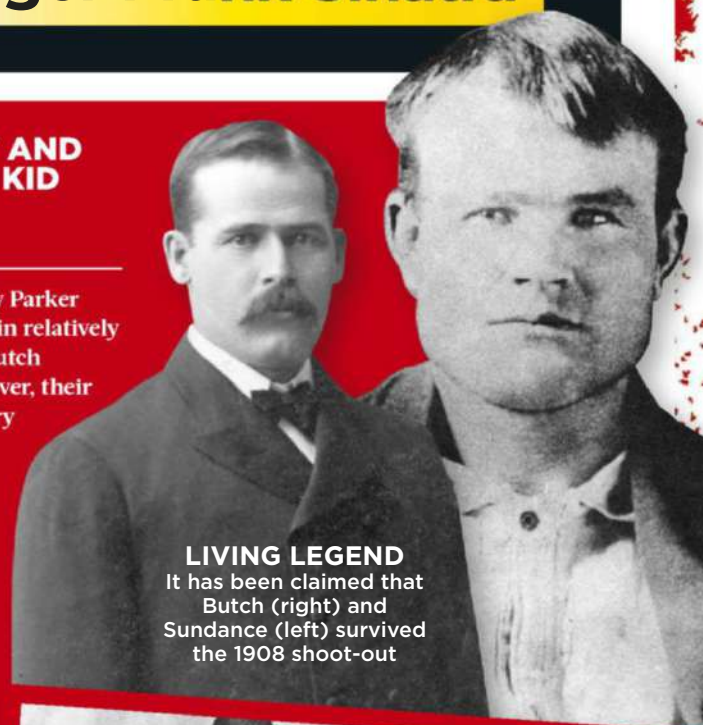
ACTIVE: 1968-92  
CRIME: **MOB BOSS**

John Gotti had a bagful of nicknames – Teflon Don, Dapper Don and, thanks to a Fun Lovin' Criminals song, the King Of New York. Gotti took over the running of the city's Gambino crime family in the mid-1980s and, while other mobsters evaded the spotlight, Gotti was a glamorous, high-profile presence who enjoyed a fair degree of public approval. The Gambino family was involved in a range of criminal activities – gambling, loan sharking, extortion – but Gotti was acquitted in three separate major trials (hence the Teflon moniker). Once, after being snubbed by Frank Sinatra, he even issued a death threat to the singer. But time finally ran out in 1992 when his underboss testified against him which, along with recordings acquired via FBI bugs, led to multiple convictions. Sentenced to life behind bars, Gotti died in 2002 from throat cancer.

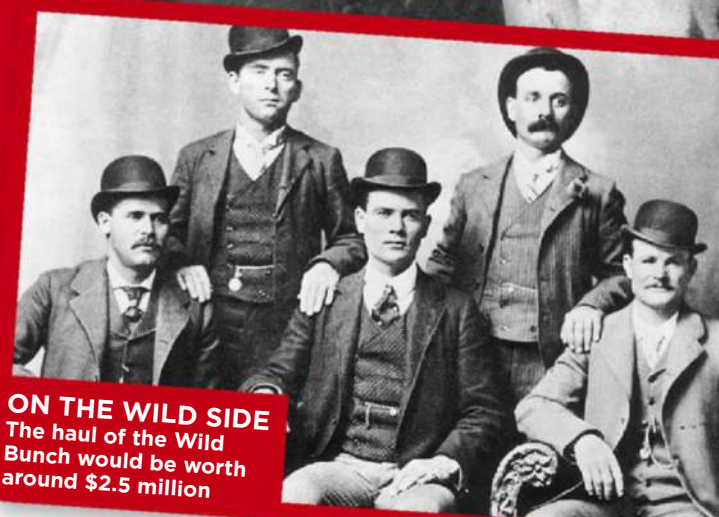
## 11 BUTCH CASSIDY AND THE SUNDANCE KID

ACTIVE: 1880s-1908  
CRIME: **OUTLAWS**

Under their real names, Robert Leroy Parker and Harry Alonzo Longabaugh remain relatively anonymous. As Wild West outlaws Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, however, their place in the pages of American history will never be in doubt. Parker was leader, and Longabaugh a member, of the Wild Bunch, a prolific gang specialising in holding up banks and trains across Wyoming, Montana, Utah and Nevada. Pursued by the Pinkerton Detective Agency, the pair, along with Longabaugh's girlfriend, set sail for Buenos Aires in 1902. A few years later, believing Pinkerton agents had discovered their Argentinian hideaway, they moved on to Chile. The law finally caught up with them in 1908, following a robbery on a payroll courier in Bolivia. A gunfight between the bandits and soldiers ensued in a small mining town. The following morning, the outlaws' bodies were discovered. Their bullet wounds – one to the forehead, one to the temple – suggested at least one took his own life.



**LIVING LEGEND**  
It has been claimed that Butch (right) and Sundance (left) survived the 1908 shoot-out



**ON THE WILD SIDE**  
The haul of the Wild Bunch would be worth around \$2.5 million

**10**

**RONNIE AND REGGIE KRAY**  
 ACTIVE: 1950s-68  
 CRIME: GANGSTERS

The Kray twins were the most notorious, most high-profile members of London's gangster community during the 1950s and 1960s. Never ones to shirk the limelight, they rubbed shoulders with the celebrities of the day, as well as often appearing on television and even being snapped by the photographer du jour, David Bailey. Although their crimes were far from media-friendly, the brothers had plenty of fans across Britain, who saw them as Robin Hood-style folk heroes. To others, however, they were mindless thugs. After being dishonourably discharged from the army during their National Service (during which time they were among the last inmates held at the Tower of London), the Krays set themselves up as club owners, heading up protection rackets through the use of brutal violence. In 1966, Ronnie shot dead rival gang leader George Cornell in The Blind Beggar pub in Whitechapel, and the following year, Reggie violently stabbed to death a minor member of their gang, Jack 'The Hat' McVitie. Despite the culture of silence surrounding the Krays, Scotland Yard gathered sufficient evidence for both murders and the brothers were convicted in 1968.

**The brothers had plenty of fans who saw them as Robin Hood-style folk heroes**

**9**

**BLACKBEARD**  
 ACTIVE: 1716-18  
 CRIME: PIRATE



Think of the Golden Age of Piracy, and one name instantly springs to mind. He may have been born as Edward Teach, but it was under the name of Blackbeard that he not only earned his infamy but also fired imaginations for generations. He was the most fearsome of all the buccaneers and the sight of him alone – swords at his waist, knives and pistols strapped to his upper body and gunpowder-enhanced lit candles in his braided hair – was often sufficient for his rivals to lay down their weapons before a shot was fired.

Possibly born in Bristol, Blackbeard made the Caribbean seas his domain, where the bounty of no ship was safe from his pillaging. Refusing offers of clemency from the Royal Navy if he laid down his weapons and renounced the life of a pirate, Blackbeard – aboard his 40-gun ship *Queen Anne's Revenge* – plundered and took command of a prodigious number of ships during a comparatively short period. Records suggest that he captured up to 45 vessels by the time his reign of terror was brought to an end in 1718. The Royal Navy finally got their man in a brief gun battle off the coast of North Carolina, although rumour has it that he was shot five

times and stabbed 20 times before he finally fell. His vanquishers then decapitated the body and attached Blackbeard's head to his ship.

**8**

**JOHN DILLINGER**  
 ACTIVE: 1933-34  
 CRIME: GANGSTER



The Depression-era 1930s was an extraordinarily fertile time for bandits and robbers in the United States, and John Dillinger was the most wanted of them all. He was a callous man, who left a high body count in his bank-robbing wake. He was also adept at springing both himself and others from prison. On one occasion, he fooled prison guards with a wooden pistol he had whittled in his cell, then blackened with shoe polish.

The boldness and brutality that Dillinger and his gang displayed during their heists in 1933 and 1934 prompted the FBI to name him as Public Enemy Number One, with a \$10,000 bounty placed on his head. Despite having undertaken plastic surgery to evade detection, the net was beginning to tighten around Dillinger and his cronies. The last bank the gang leader held up was in South Bend, Indiana, in June 1934, but within a month of the crime, he was dead, gunned down by the FBI outside a Chicago cinema. FBI operative Melvin

Purvis had identified him with the immortal words: "Stick 'em up, Johnnie. We have you surrounded." But, reaching for his gun, Dillinger was never going to surrender.

**7**

**NED KELLY**  
 ACTIVE: 1869-80  
 CRIME: BUSHRANGER



Edward 'Ned' Kelly was sharp-shooting proof that, in the 19th century, the Australian bush was the Antipodean equivalent of the American Wild West. After the alleged shooting of a police trooper at the Kelly homestead in northern Victoria in April 1878, Ned and his brother Dan went on the run, soon to be joined by accomplices Joe Byrne and Steve Hart. Six months later, the murders of three police officers prompted the government to put bounties on the gang, dead or alive.

The four men evaded capture for 18 months, during which time they took hostages and raided banks. But, with the local police's ranks fortified by trackers brought in from Queensland, the fugitives were running out of time. In June 1880, they took possession of a hotel in the town of Glenrowan upon which, despite the gang holding 60 civilians hostage inside, the police opened fire (before setting it ablaze once the hostages were safe). The bodies

## WHIPPING BOY

Before his imprisonment, Oates was pilloried and severely whipped



## TITUS OATES

ACTIVE: 1678

CRIME: PERJURER

The Popish Plot of 1678, an alleged Catholic campaign to depose Charles II from the English throne, was a complete fabrication aimed at heightening anti-Catholic sentiment across the country. And the main architect of the deceit was a maverick Anglican priest by the name of Titus Oates.

Having been expelled from school, he was ordained into the Church of England before being imprisoned for perjury. He fell in with Israel Tonge, a fanatical rector with whom he wrote a series of anti-Catholic pamphlets. At the same time, Oates joined (or, more appropriately, infiltrated) the Catholic church

to gather intelligence. Oates and Tonge then concocted the Popish Plot, warning of an imminent attempt to replace Charles with his Catholic brother James. They legitimised their claims by presenting a sworn affidavit to a magistrate called Edmund Godfrey. When, the following month, Godfrey's body was found dumped in a ditch, these claims gained great credence.

Oates, seen as a saviour of the country, was given a team of soldiers, with whom he rounded up alleged conspirators. But, after the execution of some 25 innocent men, his public image declined. When James took the throne in 1685, Oates was sentenced to life imprisonment, albeit pardoned when James was deposed three years later.

of Byrne, Hart and Dan Kelly were found inside the charred building, but Ned faced his attackers with a single revolver and wearing homemade bullet-proof armour. While his head and body were protected by plate metal one centimetre thick, his legs were vulnerable – he gave up after being shot several times. Kelly was later tried and hanged. While one historian regarded him as “one of the most cold-blooded, egotistical and utterly self-centred criminals who ever decorated the end of a rope in an Australian jail”, Kelly remains something of a folk hero in the public imagination. There have been several big-screen tellings of his tale, with Mick Jagger and Heath Ledger both cast in the lead role.



## THE GREAT TRAIN ROBBERIES

ACTIVE: 1963

CRIME: TRAIN ROBBERIES

At 3am on 8 August 1963, a mail train en route from Glasgow to London Euston stopped at a tampered line signal in the Buckinghamshire countryside. Its two drivers were quickly over-powered by a gang of robbers whose main interest lay with the train's second carriage. This was the HVP – or High Value Packet – carriage that carried large amounts of cash, usually in the region of £300,000. This particular train, though, had a larger bounty. Because there had just been a bank holiday in Scotland, the loot up for grabs was actually more than £2.5 million (around £50 million in 2015 money).

Having forced the postal workers to lie on the floor, the gang loaded the cash-rich mail sacks onto a waiting lorry before going into hiding, holing up at a secluded farm about 30 miles away.

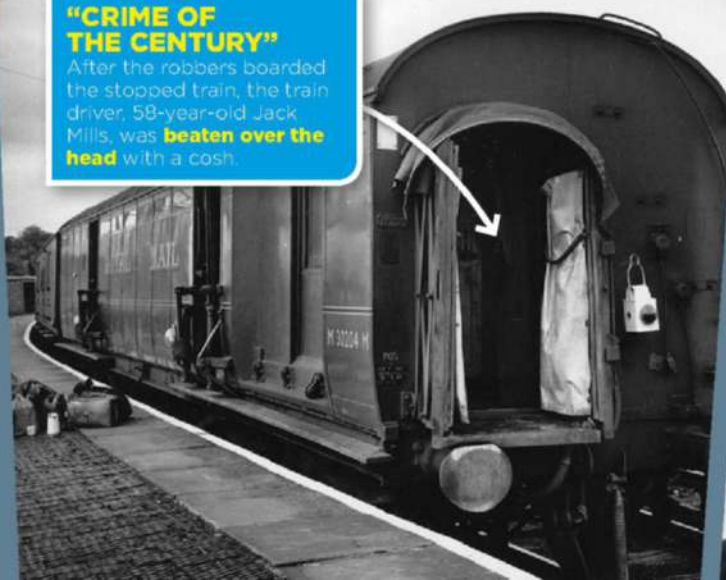
After a few days (during which time they played Monopoly using real money), the 17-strong gang split up but, over the next few months, the net closed in and arrests were made. In a well-publicised trial, seven of the gang received sentences of 30 years, which was more than murderers at the time would have received. Not all of the robbers were caught, however. Leader Bruce Reynolds and ‘Buster’ Edwards had moved their families to Mexico – although both would subsequently be jailed for their part later the same decade. A couple of the Great Train Robbers successfully escaped from prison, most famously Ronnie Biggs who had plastic surgery and fled to Paris, before moving on to Australia. With no extradition treaty, Biggs eventually settled in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where he lived openly for many years.

## ON THE GRAVY TRAIN

Ronnie Biggs (below) was one of 15 men who raided the cash-filled train

### “CRIME OF THE CENTURY”

After the robbers boarded the stopped train, the train driver, 58-year-old Jack Mills, was **beaten over the head** with a cosh.



# 4 JESSE JAMES

ACTIVE: 1866-82  
CRIME: **OUTLAW**

**T**hree years after his first robbery in 1866, James held up a bank in Gallatin, Missouri, during which he shot dead the bank-teller. From that moment, James was on the run for the rest of his life, 12 long years punctuated by a spree of violent crimes. In the company of his brother Frank and other outlaws, he fearlessly held up a procession of banks and trains, evading capture at every turn.

A former Confederate guerilla fighter during the Civil War, James enjoyed the hero status that extensive newspaper coverage gave him, believing he was answering a higher calling. "We are not thieves," he once wrote, "We are bold robbers. I am proud of the name, for Alexander the Great was a bold

robber, and Julius Caesar, and Napoleon Bonaparte." But such a notion of nobility in his deeds doesn't bear scrutiny. As well as the brutal killings perpetrated, there is no evidence that his monetary gains benefited anyone outside of James, his family or his gang. That didn't stop many people around America, however, harbouring James from the law.

Many outlaws of the time met their demise when returning police gunfire with their own. Not so James. His life ended while dusting the family home in St Joseph, Missouri. He was shot in the back of the head by Bob Ford, a relatively new member of his gang who had taken the financial bait, offered by Missouri's Governor, of executing his leader.

**\$25,000 REWARD**  
**JESSE JAMES**  
**DEAD OR ALIVE**

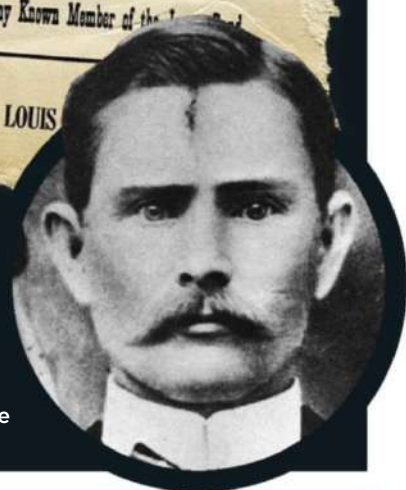
**\$15,000 REWARD FOR FRANK JAMES**

\$5000 Reward for any Known Member of the James Gang

ST. LOUIS

## LIFE AFTER DEATH

Crowds flocked to see James's body while Robert Ford found temporary fame re-enacting the shooting on stage



# 3 AL CAPONE

ACTIVE: 1920-32  
CRIME: **GANGSTER**

**PUBLIC IMAGE**  
Capone won some people over with his free soup kitchens



**PRIVATE ACTS**  
A recreation of the St Valentine's Day Massacre, 1929

**O**ut of all the American gangsters during the Prohibition years, Alphonse Gabriel Capone was the most notorious, most feared and most famous. Born in Brooklyn into an Italian family, he moved to Chicago around the age of 20 where he would rise to worldwide prominence. Within six years, he was the boss of the city's leading crime gang, later to be known as the Chicago Outfit. He very quickly expanded his empire of speakeasies, distilleries, racetracks, bookmakers, nightclubs and brothels. During the late 1920s, Capone's reported income was in the region of \$60 million every year.

He was a man who took care with his public image (for instance, he set up soup kitchens after the 1929 Wall Street Crash), but Capone viewed bribery, violence and murder as justifiable means of looking after his business interests. He enjoyed close relationships with both William Hale Thompson, the city's mayor, and the upper echelons of the Chicago Police Department, which gave him protection from the very men who should have been trying to bring him down.

As well as operating an extensive spy network across the city to keep rivals in check, Capone would also take extremely direct action, most notably with the St Valentine's Day Massacre of 1929. Four members of Capone's gang, two of whom were dressed in police uniforms, paid a visit to the bootlegging premises of the North Side gang run by George 'Bugs' Moran. Believing it to be a police raid, the North Side gangsters dropped their weapons, upon which Capone's men shot in excess of 150 bullets into seven of them. It was an incident that shocked the city, but Capone, away in Florida at the time, had distanced himself from the slaying.

Despite the floods of blood on his hands – and the negativity with which the city in general had received the massacre – the federal authorities could only pin charges of tax evasion to the slippery Capone. Nonetheless, the 11-year sentence he received upon conviction in 1933 was unprecedented. He served just over two-thirds of his sentence before being released on grounds of ill health.

ACTIVE: **1932-34** CRIME: **OUTLAWS**

Despite the nationwide attention, the spree was able to continue. The gang carried out robberies from Louisiana to Minnesota, and many points in between. Buck and Blanche Barrow were captured in Iowa in July 1933, but Bonnie and Clyde, along with WD Jones, the fifth member of the Barrow Gang, remained at large. That didn't last long, however, as Jones was arrested in Dallas six weeks later. The gang now numbered just two. The

1. Bonnie and Clyde were shot over 50 times when ambushed on a quiet Louisiana road
2. The posse who killed them suffered from temporary deafness due to the noise of the firing
3. Bonnie jokingly points a shotgun at Clyde
4. A FBI Wanted poster for the pair

**The desperado  
and his cigar-  
smoking girl  
crumpled up in  
the front seat**



**CLYDE'S SLIDE TO CRIME**  
Clyde's criminal career began before meeting Bonnie – he was **first arrested at the age of 16** after failing to return a rental car.





1

Old boss you was rite it was  
the left kidney i was goin to  
be operat. agin close to your  
spitta just as i was goin  
to dror me rife along of  
er bloomin throate them  
clusses of coppers spoilt  
the game but i guess i wil  
be on the job soon and will  
send you another bit of  
innards gack the ripper  
• have you seen the revol  
vint. his microscope and scalpul  
a lookin at a kidney  
with a slide collecte up

Dr. Openshaw  
Pathological Mus  
London Hospital  
White chapel

# JACK THE RIPPER

ACTIVE: 1888 CRIME: SERIAL KILLER

**T**he ultimate whodunnit – the identity of the man responsible for a string of shockingly savage murders in the London slum of Whitechapel during the late-19th century.

There are actually 11 killings that took place between 1888 and 1891, which have been associated with Jack the Ripper but it is five particularly gruesome slayings that remain the main focus of both the legend and the seemingly never ending investigations. In each of the 'Canonical Five' murders – all perpetrated within a three-month period of 1888 – the modus operandi was similar. All the victims were women, all had their throats slashed, four had suffered severe wounds to their abdomens and three had organs removed.

The case horrified and enthralled the public in equal measure. Serial killers existed before the Whitechapel murders, of course, but few had operated with such bloodthirsty brutality, and no murders had been publicised and

was the 'Dear Boss' letter. As well as correctly predicting that the next victim would have an ear partially cut off, the scrawled message was also the first to be signed 'Jack the Ripper'. The name stuck, replacing 'Whitechapel Murderer' and 'Leather Apron'.

At first, detectives believed that the disembowelment of the victims surely pointed to the murderer being a butcher, slaughterman or surgeon. Yet all the while that the police were unable to stick charges

**All five women had their throats slashed and three had organs removed**

sensationalised in quite the manner these were, thanks to the advent of cheap, mass-circulation newspapers during the Victorian age. These publications, along with the case detectives, began to receive hundreds of letters purporting to be sent by the killer. Some were clear hoaxes, but others were more credible. The most famous

to a succession of suspects, the press and the public drew up their own shortlists, many stretching the bounds of credulity. For instance, a celebrated actor of the day, Richard Mansfield, was thought to be a suspect, even though the basis for this was his convincing performance in a stage production of *The Strange Case of*

use for jolly soon  
 the letter back tell  
 re work then give  
 let my knife's so ne  
 want to get to wor  
 I get a chance  
 Yours truly  
 Jack the Ripper

### WHO WAS JACK THE RIPPER?

1. A letter purporting to be by the killer was sent to Dr Openshaw, who was involved in the investigation. It promised to send him a "bit of innerds"
2. The 'Dear Boss' letter was received by police before the bodies of Catherine Eddowes and Elizabeth Stride were found
3. The Illustrated Police News was constantly featuring the grisly killings
4. Michael Maybrick - the musician is a suspect for the murderer's identity
5. A poster announced the "diabolical" mutilation of Annie Chapman

Dr Jekyll And Mr Hyde, a key scene of which is a brutal murder on the streets of London.

In the intervening 127 years, many theories have circulated about the true identity of Jack the Ripper. The names of figures at the very heart of the establishment have been mooted, among them Edward VII's son Prince Albert Victor and Sir William Withey Gull, one of Queen Victoria's personal physicians. One name currently under scrutiny is that of Michael Maybrick, a musician whose composition *The Holy City* became the bestselling song of the 19th century. He is the prime suspect named in a new book, *They All Love Jack: Busting the Ripper*, by Withnail And I director Bruce Robinson. With many of the killer's letters dismissed as hoaxes because they'd been sent from all over the country, the touring Maybrick could have sent these on his travels, it is argued. For instance, one postmarked Manchester was sent on the day the musician performed at the city's Free Trade Hall. Furthermore, Robinson argues that Maybrick, a known Freemason, used the fraternity to protect his identity. "He knew that if the police saw signs of Freemasonry at the scene, he was immune," the author recently told GQ. "He scattered Masonic symbolism around his victims like confetti." 📍

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Who have we left out of our list? Who do you think is history's most notorious nasty?

email: editor@historyrevealed.com



## GHASTLY MURDER

IN THE EAST-END.  
 DREADFUL MUTILATION OF A WOMAN.  
 Capture : Leather Apron

**IN THE FAMILY**  
 Michael is not the only Maybrick to have been accused of being Jack the Ripper - his brother, James, was also a suspect

Another murder of a woman, even more diabolical than that perpetrated in Back Lane, in the same neighbourhood, on Saturday morning. The house is occupied by a man who is always open for the conveyance of the light of steps leading into the yard. The body had been completely stripped on the place, and portions of the anatomy gathered in front of Mrs. Richardson's house. The street, whither the body was quickly removed, which it has been placed in the morning. Mrs. Nicholls was first placed in the morning. The height is exactly the same as the first. The eyes are blue, and the nose is rather large and prominent.

# HISTORY REVEALED

Save when you subscribe  
**to the digital edition**



Available from



**History Revealed** is an action-packed, image-rich magazine with zero stuffiness. Each issue takes a close look at one of history's biggest stories, such as the Tudors or Ancient Egypt, to give you a great understanding of the time. And the amazing tales just keep coming, with features on the globally famous, the adventures of explorers and the blood spilt on well-known battlefields, plus much more, in every edition.



**Enjoy our Premium App experience now available from**



**HISTORY**  
REVEALED



**BIZARRE LAWS**

**No Whale Scrumping!**

Any dead whale found on the British coast automatically becomes the property of the King or Queen.

**THE OLD BILL**

The 'Bobbies' of Robert Peel's Metropolitan police service, founded in 1829. Find out more about this force on page 33

# CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

## WHAT'S THE STORY?

**L**onged-armed instrument of the state, enemy of anarchy or foundation stone of society – however you perceive the law, every culture on Earth has its own version.

Conceptually it's simple – the law is there to protect people, property and the status quo (rarely in that order). Yet its interpretation and application is incredibly complex. It evolves constantly, and the language of the law is so opaque that much of society is ignorant of its basic principles, let alone its finer points.

Britain's legal systems are as eccentric as they come. Though now regarded as among the world's fairest, historically it was quite another story. Over the centuries, humans have been burned, drowned, hanged, torn apart, boiled, disembowelled, crushed, bled, shot, stoned, buried alive, beheaded and quartered, all in the name of the law – and often in front of eager crowds.

How did we go from public butchery to private prisons and cold porridge?

**Pat Kinsella** explains...

## CRIME SPECIAL

### CALL THE COPS

While some have named forces, professional policing is surprisingly modern

£1.05

### THE FIRST DETECTIVES

### THE MET IS LAUNCHED

## TRANSPORTED TO AUSTRALIA: THE FIRST FLEET

The journey to the other side of the world was difficult enough in the mid-nineteenth century, making the trip for the first time with some 800 convicts in tow, the Captain of the First Fleet had an incredible task.

## NOW READ ON...

### NEED TO KNOW

- 1 The Origins of the Law [p30](#)
- 2 See you in Court! [p31](#)
- 3 Call the Cops [p32](#)
- 4 Doing Time [p34](#)
- 5 Capital Punishment [p36](#)

### THE FIRST FLEET

Follow the convicts and officers who established Australia's original penal colony [p39](#)

### GET HOOKED

There's more to see, read and do [p44](#)



#### LAW AND DISORDER

Londoners revolt during The Anarchy of 1135-54, when the law of the land all but disappeared



**“ALFRED’S EPIC  
TOME COLLATED  
THE LAWS OF  
KENT, WESSEX  
AND MERCIA”**

**KING OF THE LAW**  
Scroll in hand, Alfred the Great is illuminated in the stained-glass at All Saints Church, Siddington, Cheshire

1

## THE ORIGINS OF THE LAW

*When did the roots of our modern legal system first sprout?*

**T**he law varies enormously around the globe, and across small invisible borders. Scotland’s legal system, for example, differs on some fundamental principles to the one in England and Wales, but sizable common denominators bind the laws of all English-speaking countries, and most of them stem from a couple of medieval monarchs.

Pre-Christian-era tribes in Britain had codes of conduct, and the Romans brought with them a highly sophisticated legal system – remnants of which still underpin the laws of many European countries. But, as with almost every other aspect of life that the Romans brought over, once they had packed up and gone home, the English ditched their invaders’ rules and began to develop their own law-making process, which would ultimately be exported all over the world.

### DOOM MONGER

The first flickering of a cohesive law of the land in England is seen during the ninth-century-

AD reign of Alfred the Great, who assembled the Doom Book (not to be confused with the Domesday Book).

Alfred’s epic tome collated the existing dooms (laws) of Kent, Wessex and Mercia, and mixed them with Mosaic code (from Moses’ Ten Commandments), various other Christian ethics and some cherry-picked parts of fifth-century-AD Saxon codes.

These founding principles survived the 1066 invasion of William the Conqueror. The Normans simply added their own ideas to English laws, most relating to land ownership, and introduced a few key procedural concepts such as royal courts and trial by combat (see Trials and Tribulations, right).

### THE ANARCHY

The death of Henry I without a legitimate male heir in 1135, however, threw England into a two-decade period of civil war and chaos known

as The Anarchy. When Henry II became King in 1154, he set about restoring law and order to the land with a vengeance, and the results of his efforts still underpin many of the Western world’s legal systems.

Henry II came up with the concept of ‘justices in eyre’ – travelling judges who did a circuit of towns (an eyre) hearing cases, passing verdicts and presiding over punishments. When the judges returned to a central court, they made notes and established precedents, which other judges were then bound to adhere to in subsequent cases, a principle known

as *stare decisis*.

These precedent-based laws were applied all around the country, hence the term ‘common law’, and the system has survived to this day. Centuries later, it was seeded all across the British Empire and, as a result, a third of the world’s population now lives in jurisdictions governed entirely or primarily by common law.

7

The age of criminal responsibility during the 18th and 19th centuries

# SEE YOU IN COURT!

*Law courts vanished in the Dark Ages, but a new system emerged after the Norman Conquest*

**C**ourts in Britain can also be traced back to the first Plantagenet king. When Henry II's roving judges arrived in a new town, they summoned a group of law-abiding men and ordered them to report any accusations of wrongdoing in the area, including theft, robbery and murder. These groups were the precursors of the grand juries still operational in the US and, like their modern counterparts, their job was to bring matters to court, not to determine guilt.

Until the mid-12th century, someone accused of a crime could defend themselves using compurgation (declaring their innocence under oath and getting 12 people to swear they believed them), but that stopped with the 1166 Assize of Clarendon act. Subsequently, the only way to acquit oneself was to pass a trial by ordeal or one by combat (see below).

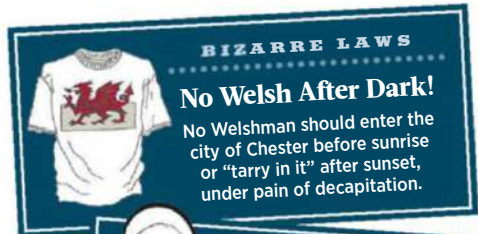
Under Pope Innocent II, the Church withdrew its cooperation for these violent methods in 1216. Without the legitimising presence of priests, trial by ordeal gradually gave way to trial by jury, which had, in theory, been enshrined as a right in Magna Carta the previous year.

The re-emergence of lawyers in 13th-century Britain also contributed to this shift. The legal

profession in Britain had collapsed, along with everything else, after the toppling of the Western Roman Empire but, by 1250, the profession had bounced back. Career lawyers increasingly protected their clients, shielding them from risking life and limb in trials by combat, and further fuelling the transition to trial by jury.

## MECHANICS OF LAW

The law continued to evolve through legislation, from the Provisions of Oxford (1258) through the 15th-century reforms of Richard III (surprisingly forward-thinking, given his dastardly reputation) and the game-changing Glorious Revolution of 1688 (when a law was enacted making it illegal for an English monarch to be or marry a Catholic – which was only repealed in 2015), right up to the present day. But the basic mechanics of the court system of England and Wales – still recognisable now – were in place by the mid-13th century.



### BIZARRE LAWS

#### No Welsh After Dark!

No Welshman should enter the city of Chester before sunrise or "tarry in it" after sunset, under pain of decapitation.

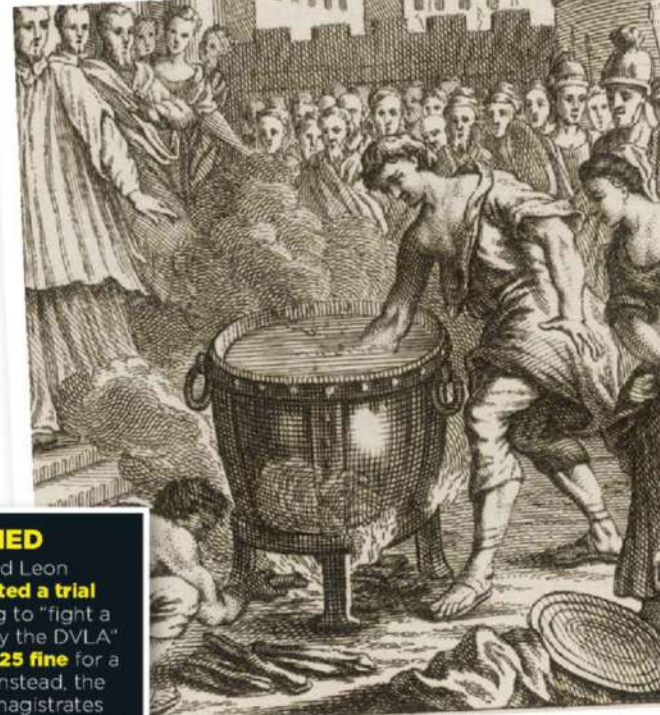


### BIZARRE LAWS

#### No Heavy Metal!

It is illegal to enter the Houses of Parliament while wearing a suit of armour.

**WHAT AN ORDEAL**  
A suspect's arm is plunged into boiling water to test his innocence



### COMBAT DENIED

In 2002, 60-year-old Leon Humphreys requested a trial by combat, offering to "fight a champion put up by the DVLA" rather than pay a £25 fine for a motoring offence. Instead, the Bury St Edmunds magistrates fined him £200 plus £100 costs.

## ORDEAL AND COMBAT TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS

During the 12th century, trial by ordeal was used to establish a verdict in criminal cases. Ordeals included trial by fire, when the accused was forced to pick up a red-hot iron bar, or extract a stone from a cauldron of boiling water or oil. The defendant's hands were examined three days later – signs of healing revealed God was on their side and they'd be acquitted, otherwise they were deemed guilty and executed. Ordeal by water saw the accused tied up and tossed into a lake: the guilty sank; the innocent floated.

Civil and criminal disputes were sometimes decided in trial by combat, or wager of battle, when sanctioned duels were fought between defendant and accuser. Battles took place in 18-metre-square judicial lists and ended in death or disabling, or when one combatant uttered the word 'craven' (from the French for 'broken') and gave up the fight. If the defendant lost, he would be executed; if the plaintiff was vanquished, he was declared an outlaw and became liable for damages. Defendants who emerged victorious, or who survived until sundown, were freed. Occasional trials by combat continued into the 16th century.

### FIGHT FOR LIFE

Trial by combat was the ultimate fight for justice



# CALL THE COPS

*While laws have been around forever, professional policing is surprisingly modern*

**P**rior to the 1700s, towns and cities, including London, were protected mainly by citizens, who took turns doing shifts as unpaid night watchmen, performing dusk-till-dawn patrols of their patch.

Armed with sticks and overseen by constables (men, also unpaid, chosen by the parish), watchmen were expected see off would-be criminals and sometimes sword-wielding drunkards.

Unsurprisingly, this was enormously unpopular.

Wealthy residents increasingly employed deputies to do their duties, and the watch evolved into a semi-paid force. But a bunch of disparate deputies didn't offer a reliable defence against a growing tide of crime, as the population swelled and men returned from wars with no money and few prospects, but plenty of violent experience.

Parliamentary Watch Acts authorised taxes to pay for professional protection and, by 1800, every parish in London had full-time watchmen, overseen by constables and city marshals. There were also beadle: locally employed minor-law enforcers, who could arrest vagrants, beggars, drunks and prostitutes, and send them before Justices of the Peace.

## BOUNTY HUNTERS

In the early 18th century, city streets were also prowled by thief-takers – rough-and-ready individuals who hunted villains and recovered stolen property for a price, sometimes paid by the victim but often supplemented by rewards offered by authorities. This could be very lucrative, especially if you were on the take from both sides, as many were.

The infamous Jonathan Wild, self-styled 'Thief-taker General of England and Ireland', ran an organised gang in London, stealing property that Wild then returned

to its owner for a fee. This scam became so notorious that Wild had an act of parliament named after him. He also allegedly sacrificed the less-skilled members of his mob to the authorities, collecting the bounties and sending them to swing on the Tyburn Tree – a fate that caught up with Wild himself in 1725.

Although performance-based policing was creating its own crime wave, both public and

Parliament resisted the idea of a state-run force, which was perceived as a foreign and absolutist concept.

Even after widespread looting and damage during the 1780

Gordon Riots – when the army was called in and 285 people died – the Earl of Shelburne's suggestion

that London adopt a police force like the one in Paris caused shock.

Magistrate Patrick Colquhoun had more success with the Thames River Police, a 50-man force that launched in 1797, funded by merchants who were losing £500,000 of cargo a year to theft. In its first year, the force saved several lives and an estimated £122,000. In 1800, the British government took over funding. Colquhoun's methods influenced Robert Peel when he established the Metropolitan Police, which absorbed the pioneering Thames force.

**£1.05**

The original weekly wage for a police constable in the Met in 1829

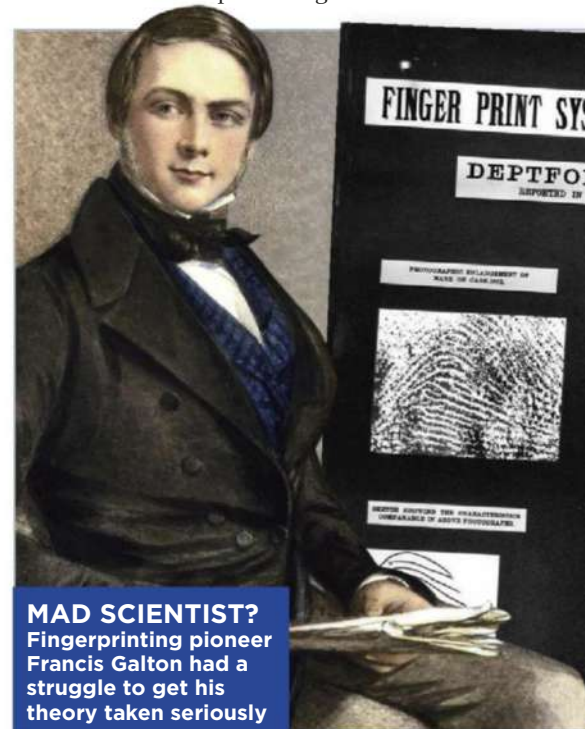
**"BY 1800, EVERY PARISH IN LONDON HAD FULL-TIME WATCHMEN"**

## THE NIGHT'S WATCH

Charles Rouse, the last of London's watchmen, on duty on Brixton Road c1890

BELOW: An 18th-century night-watchman's rattle

BOTTOM: A mob sets London's Newgate Prison on fire during the 1780 Gordon Riots



**MAD SCIENTIST?** Fingerprinting pioneer Francis Galton had a struggle to get his theory taken seriously



### IT'S THE CAVALRY

To be qualified for the Bow Street Horse Patrol, the officers must have served as **cavalry soldiers** in the army.

**IN THE SADDLE**  
London's Bow Street Horse Patrol first took to their steeds in the early 1800s



### BUSTED!

In 1820, three Bow Street officers rumble a plot to assassinate the British Cabinet, taking out the lead conspirator



### BIZARRE LAWS

#### Don't Drink and Herd!

Being in charge of a cow or steam engine while drunk carries a prison sentence or a fine of £200.

CLUED UP

## THE FIRST DETECTIVES

In 1749, a small quasi-professional police force was launched. Colloquially known as the Bow Street Runners, this six-man team was bossed by Barrister and Chief Magistrate Henry Fielding (who led an unlikely double life as a popular author), from his office and court in Bow Street, London.

The Runners were more like detectives than police officers. They were paid a stipend, and instead of patrolling a patch, they travelled around the country, targeting specific criminals and making arrests. They still, however, collected rewards, and government funding remained intermittent.

After Fielding's death, his brother Sir John, who'd lost his sight at 19, became Chief Magistrate. The 'Blind Beak of Bow Street' could, allegedly, identify 3,000 criminals by their voices alone. He also started the first criminal records department, and introduced horse-mounted officers to patrol the posh streets.

By 1797, Bow Street boasted 68 men, but within a few decades the new Metropolitan Police swallowed the organisation. The Detective Branch launched soon after, which continued Bow Street's roving activities, before Scotland Yard set up the plain-clothed Criminal Investigation Department (CID) in 1878.



### BOBBY DAZZLER

Founder of the force, Sir Robert Peel



THE BIRTH OF THE BRITISH BOBBY...

## THE MET IS LAUNCHED

With two Commissioners, eight Superintendents, 20 Inspectors, 88 Sergeants and 895 Constables, the massive Metropolitan Police Service, launched in September 1829, was charged with keeping London's streets safe within a seven-mile radius of Charing Cross. It was preceded by the Glasgow Police (1800) and the Royal Irish Constabulary (1822), but the Met is regarded as the world's first modern police force, largely because of the ethos fostered by its founding father, Sir Robert Peel.

In his role as Home Secretary, Peel was determined to make professional policing part of civil society. He deliberately organised the Met along non-military lines, with blue uniforms instead of red, army-style livery, and officers armed only with truncheons and rattles (later whistles). He believed having Bobbies on the beat would provide a proactive deterrent to crime, and that they'd be accepted by a deeply distrustful public.

Results were mixed. An officer was killed on duty within nine months (in an incident the coroner described as "justifiable homicide"), and others were assaulted, impaled, blinded and deliberately run over. Discipline wasn't perfect either; in 1863 alone, 215 officers were arrested for being drunk on duty. Ultimately, though, the Met became the model for police forces around Britain and the world.

## THE PROOF IS IN THE PRINT POINT THE FINGER

The Met first employed a systematic forensic approach to their investigations – collecting crime-scene material for analysis and suspect elimination – while hunting Jack the Ripper in 1888. However, they missed a trick by dismissing a method of identification offered to them two years earlier: fingerprints.

Snubbed by the police, Scottish surgeon Dr Henry Faulds wrote to Charles Darwin, who forwarded his ideas to his anthropologist cousin Francis Galton. After years of research, Galton calculated the chance of two individuals having the same fingerprints was one in 64 billion.

Under Sir Edward Henry, who'd read Galton's work, police in India began collecting prisoners' prints in 1896. By 1901, Henry was back in Britain as Assistant Commissioner of Scotland Yard and Head of CID, overseeing the establishment of the Metropolitan Police Fingerprint Bureau.

He got his first conviction in 1902, when one Harry Jackson was sentenced to seven years for stealing billiard balls – which prompted a letter to *The Times* from "A Disgusted Magistrate", fuming: "Scotland Yard... will be the laughing stock of Europe if it insists on trying to trace criminals by odd ridges on their skins." But the precedent was set and, in 1905, one thumbprint sent brothers Alfred and Albert Stratton to the gallows for a double bludgeoning murder.



**BLACK AND WHITE**  
The fingerprint evidence used in the Stratton murder trial of 1905

# DOING TIME

*Jails weren't always used for punishment – they were once just holding cells for the real retribution...*

## COCKY, MUCH?

Having evaded the noose in 1724, Sheppard posted an open-letter to his **would-be hangman** "I thank you for the favour you intended me... I am now **drinking your health**".

**P**eople have been slung into dungeons throughout history, but until the 18th century, jails were primarily holding pens for miscreants awaiting trial, torture, execution or transportation.

For centuries, the treatment of criminals and enemies of the state was as much about discouraging others from offending – via a vile theatre of gore – as it was about law enforcement. Why keep people locked up when you could publicly hang, flog, mutilate and shame them?

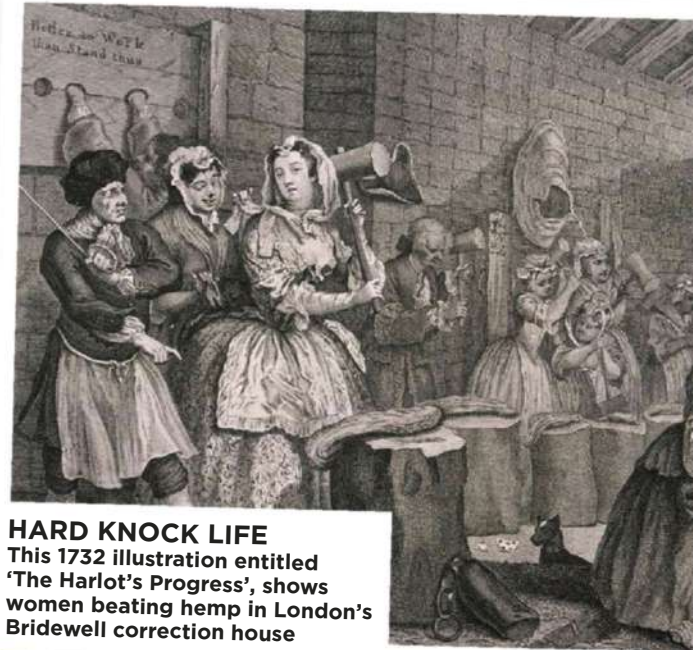
After the 1601 Elizabethan Poor Law, people collared for minor misdemeanours such as vagrancy, begging and prostitution were dragged in front of Justices of the Peace and sent to 'houses of correction' like London's Bridewell

for a week or two. Here, they were often whipped and usually made to do hard labour. There was no segregation between offenders, including women and children, and abuse was rampant.

The prisons were run privately, with some crossing the line into illegal actions to turn a profit. At times, Bridewell was reportedly run like a brothel, with female inmates forced into sexual service. Debtors made up more than half of the 18th century's prison population. They were incarcerated until they paid off their debt, plus the rising cost of their confinement, which could prove insurmountable. Some

300

The number of inmates found to have starved to death in prisons in three months in 1729



**HARD KNOCK LIFE**  
This 1732 illustration entitled 'The Harlot's Progress', shows women beating hemp in London's Bridewell correction house

## CHANGING OF THE GUARD REFORM IN THE VICTORIAN ERA

Following the work of reformers such as John Howard and Jeremy Bentham, a wave of change affected the penal system in the early 19th century. By this stage, the 'bloody code' had been reduced, and capital punishment was reserved for the most heinous crimes. Even the stocks had fallen from fashion.

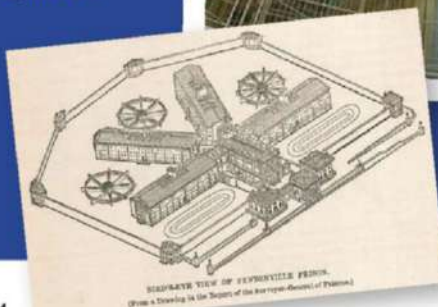
Religious groups led the push for an overhaul of the prison system, and the idea that prisons could be centres of redemption and rehabilitation, rather than places of pure punishment, was examined.

Purpose-built, state-owned prisons were populated by paid jailors, who oversaw long-term inmates kept in separate cells. London's Millbank, which opened in 1816 and could hold 860 inmates, was one of the earliest. The first panopticon prison – which allowed one watchman to see all the inmates – Pentonville, was built in North London in 1842, and 54 such prisons followed. The Bankruptcy Act of 1869 meant creditors could no longer have their debtors jailed, which vastly reduced the number of inmates.

However, during the second half of the century, the

emphasis swung back, away from character reform towards punishment. Now, prison regimes were designed to deter offending and re-offending. Features such as handcranks and treadwheels were introduced, with prisoners forced to perform hard labour for long hours.

It wasn't until the 1898 Prison Act that rehabilitation was re-established as the main objective of prisons, although the punishment-versus-reform debate still continues.



**PRISON PLAN**  
In Pentonville Prison all the inmates can be seen by one guard

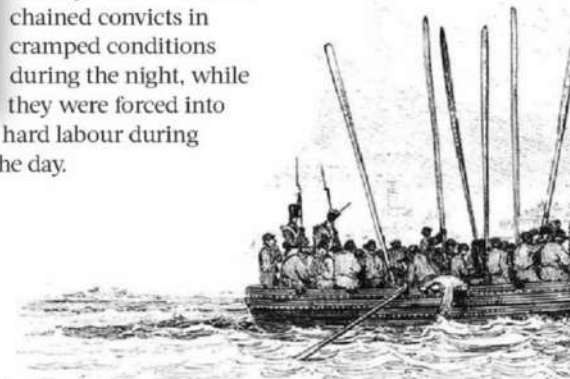
people accused of crimes were found innocent at trial, but remained in jail because of prison costs accumulated while on remand.

Lock-ups like the Clink in Southwark, London, were filthy, unruly places. Jailors were unsalaried, and earned their living by imposing tortures in order to demand payment for relief. They also sold prisoners essentials (such as food), comforts and privileges, from bedding to beer. Thousands of poor prisoners starved; many more died of 'gaol fever' – a form of typhus.

During the 18th century, the emphasis changed. Juries started to get squeamish about sending petty thieves to the gallows.

Deprivation of liberty became a punishment instead, which caused serious overcrowding in the ill-prepared prisons.

Transporting criminals to the New World relieved the pressure but, when America won independence, a new solution was needed. Between 1776 and 1857, prison hulks – ships, anchored in the Thames, and at Portsmouth and Plymouth – housed chained convicts in cramped conditions during the night, while they were forced into hard labour during the day.



## MAKING A BREAK FOR IT THE GREATEST ESCAPES

**JAIL BREAK!**  
Petty criminal  
Jack Sheppard  
makes good  
one of his four  
extraordinary  
escapes

One of the most renowned jailbreak stories of the Tudor era features the escapades of English Jesuit priest John Gerard. Operating in Catholic-bashing Elizabethan England, Gerard was accustomed to evading the law and hiding in priest holes, and he'd already spent time in Marshalsea Prison when he was arrested in 1594 for propagandising. Sent first to the Clink, Gerard was then moved to the Tower of London. Despite severe hand injuries suffered during torture, on 4 October 1597, under cloak of darkness, Gerard and another man (John Arden), used a rope to climb down the Tower walls, before escaping across the moat in boat, never to be recaptured.

A second audacious escape from the Tower saw William Maxwell, Earl of Nithsdale, abscond in women's clothing on the eve of his planned execution for involvement in the 1715 Jacobite rising. The clothes were smuggled in by his wife and two of her friends. The foursome made it past guards and reached the continent, before learning a reprieve had been signed on the very day of Maxwell's escape.

The most famous serial escapist of the period, though,

was slippery pick-pocket and burglar Jack Sheppard, who was arrested and imprisoned five times in 1724, but wriggled free on all but the last occasion – filing through manacles, busting out of ceilings and climbing down walls, sometimes with his long-time partner, prostitute Edgeworth Bess, in tow.

By his fifth arrest, Sheppard was a celebrity. While loaded down with 135kgs of iron weights, he was visited by various members of high society, Daniel Defoe ghost-wrote his autobiography and the royally-approved artist James Thornhill painted his portrait.

Despite appeals to King George I, the 22-year-old miscreant was hanged at Tyburn on 16 November 1724, after a last-ditch attempt to escape by cutting through his ropes was dashed by the discovery of his penknife. His execution was apparently attended by 200,000 people – a third of London's population.

**BIZARRE LAWS**  
No Squirrel Hiding!

Failing to report grey squirrels seen in your garden is illegal.

**BIZARRE LAWS**  
Pull Your Bowfinger Out!

In England, all men over the age of 14 must carry out two hours of longbow practice a day.

**CLAPPED  
IN IRONS**  
Convicts prepare  
to board the  
prison hulk in  
Portsmouth  
Harbour, 1828

**TIGHT SHIP**  
Some 600 men  
were crammed  
into the *Warrior*  
prison hulk at  
Woolwich

**“WHY KEEP PEOPLE  
LOCKED UP WHEN  
YOU COULD PUBLICLY  
SHAME THEM?”**

# CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

*In an unforgiving era, even the most minor offences were paid for with the highest price...*

**H**anging has been the traditional English way of dispatching convicted criminals since medieval times, but other methods have also been favoured. Burning became the penalty for heresy in 1401 while, in 1532, Henry VIII passed a law that allowed convicted poisoners to be boiled alive, which was used at least twice – on Richard Roose (1531) and Margaret Davy (1542) – before being repealed in 1547.

Beheading was reserved for nobility – including, of course, King Charles I, who was executed for treason in 1649. The last state-sanctioned decapitation took place in 1747, when Scotsman Simon Fraser (Lord Lovat) was executed for treason.

Fraser's fate could have been far worse; those guilty of treason were often sentenced to the most theatrical horror show of all – being hanged, drawn and quartered. The condemned men were dragged through the street (sometimes naked) to the gallows, where they were hanged almost to the point of death, before being cut down and disembowelled by the executioner, and then dismembered.

But common convicts met their end via the noose. From 1571 until 1779, the 'Tyburn Tree' was London's principle place of execution. Located near modern-day Marble Arch, this wooden tripod-shaped gallows could handle multiple simultaneous executions.

30

The number of spiked heads on London Bridge seen by German visitor Paul Hentzner in 1598

By the end of the 18th century, 220 offences – including pickpocketing – carried the death penalty. From 1735-99 alone, 6,069 men and 375 women were executed in England and Wales.

Gradually, though, sensibilities softened. Juries shied away from guilty verdicts that would send low-level criminals to their deaths, and the law was forced to change. In 1823, the death penalty became discretionary for all crimes except treason and murder and, by 1861, the list of offences punishable by death was down to five.

The last executions in mainland Britain took place on 13 August 1964, with the hangings of two murderers, Gwynne Evans and Peter Allen. The death penalty was abolished completely for murder in 1969, but you could still be hanged for piracy or high treason until 1998.



**“BY THE END OF THE 18TH CENTURY, 220 OFFENCES CARRIED THE DEATH PENALTY”**

## NEAR DEATH EXPERIENCE

Crowds line the streets to see a triple hanging in London's Newgate, in the mid-18th century

## BIZARRE LAWS

### Tartan Targets!

In York, upon sight of a Scotsman within the ancient city walls, it's still legal to shoot him with a bow and arrow, except on Sundays.



## BIZARRE LAWS

### Wee wheel deal!

It's legal for a male to urinate in public, as long it is on the rear wheel of his motor vehicle and his right hand is on the vehicle.



## THE EXECUTION FACTOR SHOW OF DEATH

During the hangman's heyday, the public executions that took place at London's Tyburn Tree each week were a great spectacle. The size of the crowd would vary according to the notoriety of the condemned, but some attracted over 100,000 people.

For convicts, the two-mile trip from Newgate Prison along Oxford Street to the gallows could take three hours. Boisterous crowds would line the roads, and it was customary for convicts to have a drink en route in the Bowl Inn at St Giles, a privilege they enjoyed

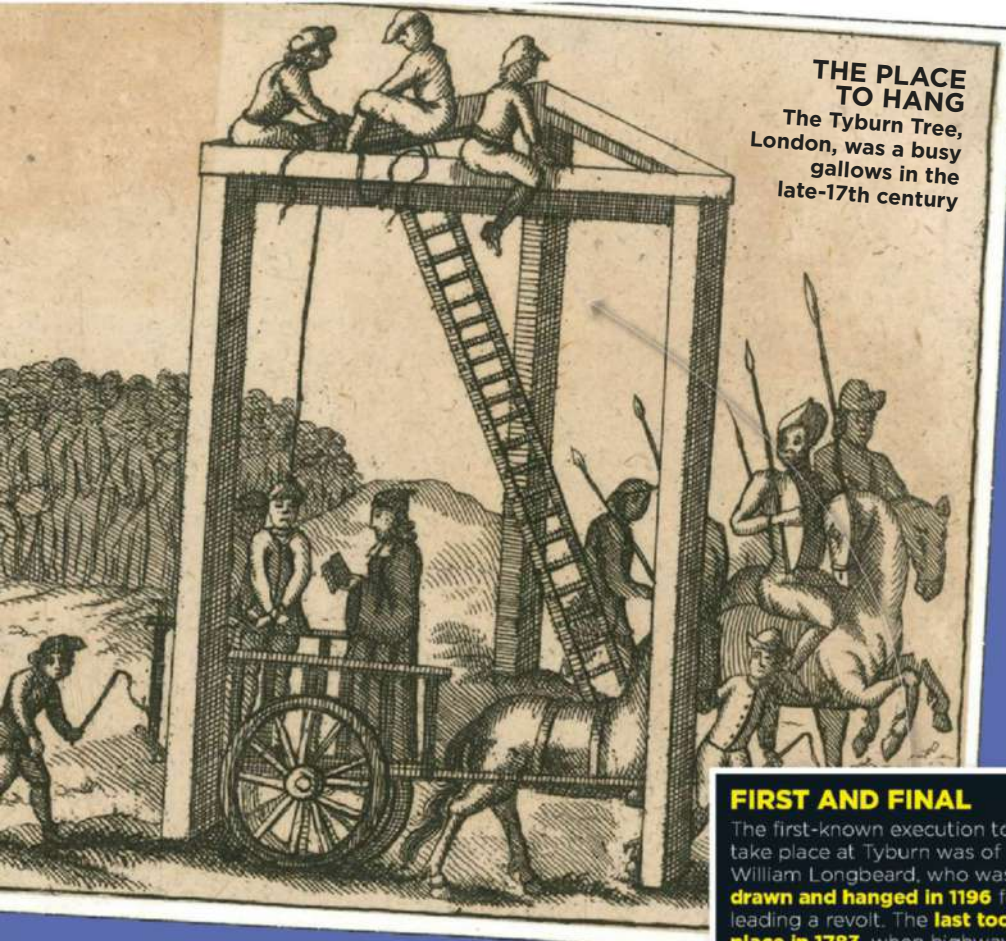
## HEADS WILL ROLL

An executioner's block from c1746, and a heading axe from the 1500s

## HISTORIC BLOCK

This oak block was probably used for the execution of the traitor Simon Fraser in 1747 – the **last person beheaded** on Tower Hill in the Tower of London.





**THE PLACE TO HANG**  
The Tyburn Tree, London, was a busy gallows in the late-17th century

### FIRST AND FINAL

The first-known execution to take place at Tyburn was of William Longbeard, who was **drawn and hanged in 1196** for leading a revolt. The **last took place in 1783**, when highwayman John Austin met his end.

while manacled to the wall. Some would shout to fellow punters that they'd buy them a beer on the way back.

Street hawkers sold food in the carnival-like atmosphere, and even children were brought along to see the event. The condemned would don their best clothes, and crowds were noisily appreciative when they made speeches and put on a show. Any sign of weakness was jeered.

Morbid voyeurism wasn't the preserve of the poor. Wealthy people paid handsomely for a seat on 'Mother Proctor's Pews' – open galleries close enough to hear the convict's speech, as well as

their dying cries. When a woman was executed, such as Maria Manning, who was hanged at Lane Gaol in Surrey in 1849, there was much chatter about her clothes.

In 1783, the Tyburn Tree was replaced with more modern gallows at Newgate, which couldn't accommodate such large crowds, and hangings gradually declined. In 1868, Irish republican Richard O'Sullivan Burke was the last person to be publicly hanged on the British mainland; an act later that year effectively forced proceedings behind closed prison doors.

## DEATH AFTER DEATH GRISLY DETERRENTS

The mutilation of the body after death was deemed an additional punishment. After the Restoration, for example, the body of unpopular puritan leader Oliver Cromwell was dug up and posthumously hanged for a day at Tyburn, before being beheaded.

Body parts were also displayed in public places as none-too-subtle reminders of the fate that awaited law-breakers. The spiked heads of traitors were a common sight on London Bridge from 1305 (when William Wallace's head was displayed) to as late as 1772.

Corpses were often hung up in gibbets – cages specifically used to display the inglorious dead. After someone was hanged, drawn and quartered, the four parts of the body were

sometimes gibbeted in different places. The bodies of executed pirates were traditionally gibbeted at Tilbury Point on the River Thames until three tides had washed over them.

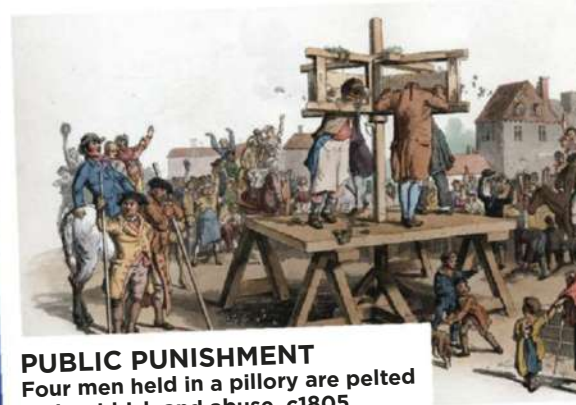
Occasionally, corpses were coated in tar, or gibbeted in body-shaped cages to prolong their effect. In the mid-1700s, the rotting remains of murderer John Breads were left in an iron cage on Gibbet Marsh in East Sussex for 20 years.



**SPIKY END**  
Heads of the guilty line London Bridge



**IN THE CHAIR**  
A woman demonstrates an old ducking stool in Kent, c1900



**PUBLIC PUNISHMENT**  
Four men held in a pillory are pelted with rubbish and abuse, c1805

## HUMILIATIONS GALORE STOCKS AND STOOLS

Not all punishments were fatal – sentences involving mutilation, whipping, branding and public humiliation were popular – providing more gory entertainment for crowds.

Pillories – a form of the stocks, where convicts had their heads and limbs locked into a wooden board, and were left exposed to the often-merciless public – were used well into the Victorian era.

This punishment could be brutal, even life-threatening, as people would pelt them with objects ranging from rotten veg to dead animals and excrement. Those convicted of homosexual offences were particularly viciously abused, and the fishwives of Drury Lane were notoriously savage.

Sometimes additional punishments were inflicted on convicts while they were in the pillory, including lashing, branding and 'cropping', where a prisoner's ears were cut off. Thomas Barrie, found guilty of spreading rumours about the death of Henry VIII in 1538, had his ears nailed to Newbury's pillory, and was later released by having them cut off.

Ducking, or cucking, stools were used to punish women for 'scolding' – being argumentative. The women would be restrained in a chair on the end of a seesaw device, and dunked underwater in a river or lake. The last recorded case of this punishment happened in Plymouth in 1808.



**FOR KING  
AND CONVICTS**

Marines raise the Union flag in Sydney Cove on 26 January 1788, marking both the British occupation of Australia, and the foundation of the continent's first penal colony

TOP PHOTO

**CRIME SPECIAL**

# TRANSPORTED TO AUSTRALIA: **THE FIRST FLEET**

The journey to the other side of the world was difficult enough in the 18th century but, making the trip for the first time with some 800 convicts in tow, the Captain of the First Fleet had an unenviable task...



**BRIEF ENCOUNTER**

In one of his letters home, David Blackburn, Master of HMS *Supply*, describes **his first meeting with the locals** "[the natives] came to us without fear armed with spears, but **without any appearance of hostile intention**".

**SHIPS TO SHORE**  
The First Fleet enters Port Jackson, where its marines and convicts establish the first antipodean colony

**D**uring the height of the antipodean summer of 1788, 11 ships weighed anchor beside an alien land at the bottom of the planet. They intended to set up a new colony, built on the forced labour of convicts. A further 806 ships, carrying 162,000 prisoners, would follow in their wake over the next 79 years, in one of the biggest feats of forced human migration ever seen outside of commercial slavery.

When Captain Arthur Phillip came ashore at Botany Bay on 18 January 1788, it didn't take him long to realise he'd been misled by the reports of Captain James Cook, who'd discovered the bay 18 years earlier. The great

convicts and 323 disgruntled marines, along with their wives and families, who had all spent 252 days at sea and required somewhere to live.

As beginnings go, it was inauspicious, yet on such unpromising ground, Phillip managed to plant the seeds that would sprout into a nation now known as the Lucky Country.

No mean feat, especially considering Phillip's main mission was to set up the colonial equivalent of a dumping ground, a place where the less savoury sections of society could be sent – well out of sight and smell. This place was to be the domain of the Mother Country's unwanted and wayward – the career criminals, Celtic rebels, troublesome trade unionists and hapless poor that it could no longer bump

**NEW TERRITORY**  
Captain Cook meets the locals at Botany Bay in 1770, meeting people who had never before encountered Europeans



## **“THIS PLACE WAS TO BE THE DOMAIN OF THE MOTHER COUNTRY’S UNWANTED AND WAYWARD”**

explorer had named the area for the profusion of plants found there, and one of his botanists – Joseph Banks – had recommended it as a potential place for a colony. But what does a botanist know about settlement?

Phillip found a bay with a bottom too shallow to make a good harbour, very limited fresh water, trees that appeared to be made from iron and natives who seemed none too impressed with his arrival. All of which left him in a bit of a fix. Stuck on the other side of the Earth, with no back-up plan, he was in charge of nearly 800

off for the pettiest of indiscretions, and who wouldn't all fit in the creaking prison system back home.

### **GALLOWS NO MORE**

For the British government of the 1780s, *Terra Australia* was the great new hope. The public had begun to balk at sending small-time criminals and the desperately poor to the gallows, and the country's medieval jails were utterly inadequate for housing the growing population of prisoners.

Transportation wasn't a new concept. As far back as 1615, England had been shipping convicts, upstarts and Scottish and Irish prisoners of war to its colonies in the New World, particularly Virginia and Maryland. These people were sold to the settlers as indentured labour, but the fast-developing colonies weren't happy about being used as England's dustbin, and numerous times they attempted – in vain – to put a stop to the practice. What did bring it to a sudden and juddering halt was the 13 colonies' victory in the American Revolutionary War in 1783, after which the newly formed United States refused to accept any more convict ships.

Desperate times demanded drastic action. Great lumbering junks on the Thames and along the coast at Plymouth and Portsmouth were put to use as floating prisons (see page 34), absorbing the criminal overspill – a seething,

stinking mass of hopeless humanity that slept cheek-by-jowl on board the filthy boats at night, and was forced into hard labour during the day. Many convicts may have chosen the noose over this living hell, and the situation was getting steadily worse.

And then someone remembered the report filed by Captain Cook after his first foray to the land down under on the *Endeavour* in 1768–71, when he'd talked in positively glowing terms about a place he initially named Stingray Bay, but changed to Botany Bay to reflect the enthusiasm of Joseph Banks.

Banks's suggestion that the bay would make a good settlement was a welcome one. The English badly needed a new colony, and especially one that was – as they saw it – empty. (From the time of Cook's landing, England illegally assumed ownership of Australia under the principle of '*terra nullius*' – simply pretending that the land was uninhabited, despite an encounter with the Eora people the very first time they set foot on shore.)

## UNSTABLE LOAD

On 13 May 1787, the convoy of vessels that would become known as the First Fleet left Portsmouth Harbour bound for New South Wales. There were 11 ships in the flotilla, which was under the command of the redoubtable Captain Arthur Phillip. His boisterous cargo was 778 convicts (192 women and 586 men). They may have been unwanted social flotsam in their homeland, but now they were a valuable source of labour muscle and reproductive potential with which to build a new colony on the last part of the planet that remained utterly unmapped and almost completely unknown.

These poor wretches had been convicted of offences ranging from assault and robbery to mere perjury. Regardless of their official sentence, they'd all been given a lifelong term, but it was better than going for a swing on Tyburn Tree and, in modern-day parlance, might be regarded as the ultimate new start – if they survived the voyage, that is, which was by no means a given.

All the ships also carried a contingent of marines to police the convicts and protect the planned settlement from indigenous attack after arrival. The families of these men were along for the ride too, with most of them travelling aboard the *Prince of Wales*. The fleet was operated by 323 crewmembers, and 15 officials and passengers travelled too, along with a mixed menagerie of animals.

While the best estimate is 1,487, it's impossible to say precisely how many history makers sailed on the eccentric ensemble of arks that was the First Fleet – the records aren't exact enough, and the numbers fluctuated anyway, with 48 people dying en route, and 28 babies being born. What we do know is that, for all these men women and children, this was the 18th-century equivalent of going to Mars. The journey was excruciatingly long and fraught

# THE CONVICT LIFE

Once on land, the hard work began

According to English common law, a person could be transported if they were convicted of a felony – meaning a serious crime, as opposed to a misdemeanour. Offences deemed heinous enough to warrant a one-way ticket to the antipodes at the end of the 18th century included 'felonies' such as stealing handkerchiefs. Sentences started at seven years and went up to "the term of his/her natural life", but in reality they were all given life, because there was little chance of return.

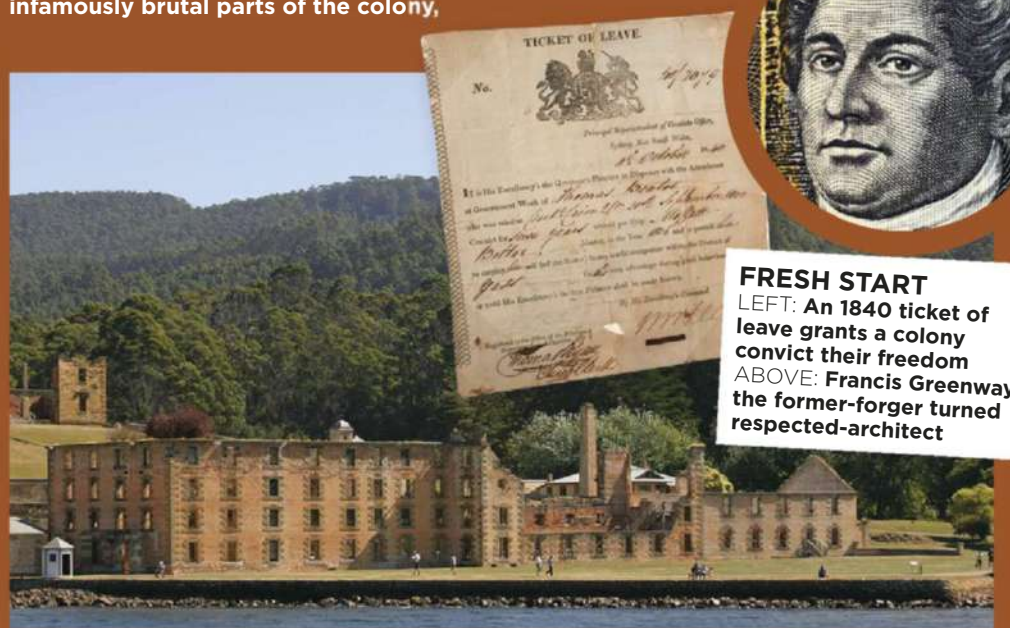
Once in Australia, convicts would be put to task doing hard labour. Initially, an entire colony needed to be built from scratch, and there was no shortage of grunt work to be done. Later, when free settlers began to arrive and convicts who had served their term received land grants, newly arrived, well-behaved prisoners would be put into service helping to get small landholdings up and running.

If they were violent or re-offended, convicts might find themselves sent to infamously brutal parts of the colony,

such as Sarah Island or Port Arthur, where methods of punishment were exceptionally harsh and included psychological torture such as sensory deprivation.

After serving a certain period of their term, convicts with unblemished records could request a ticket of leave, which, if granted, permitted various freedoms, and allowed them to marry and start a family (something the colony needed).

Once they'd served their time, they joined the ranks of the free settlers. Many became highly respected members of society. Francis Greenway, a Bristol-born architect who had his death sentence for forgery commuted to 14 years transportation, arrived in 1814. As a convict, and after his emancipation, he designed some of Sydney's most outstanding buildings, and was celebrated on Australia's first \$10 banknote (not a bad tribute for a convicted forger).



**FRESH START**  
LEFT: An 1840 ticket of leave grants a colony convict their freedom  
ABOVE: Francis Greenway, the former-forger turned respected-architect

## PLACE OF FEAR

The prison at Port Arthur Historic Site on the Tasmanian Peninsular was built in 1848. It soon became infamous for the mental subjugation techniques used on its inmates

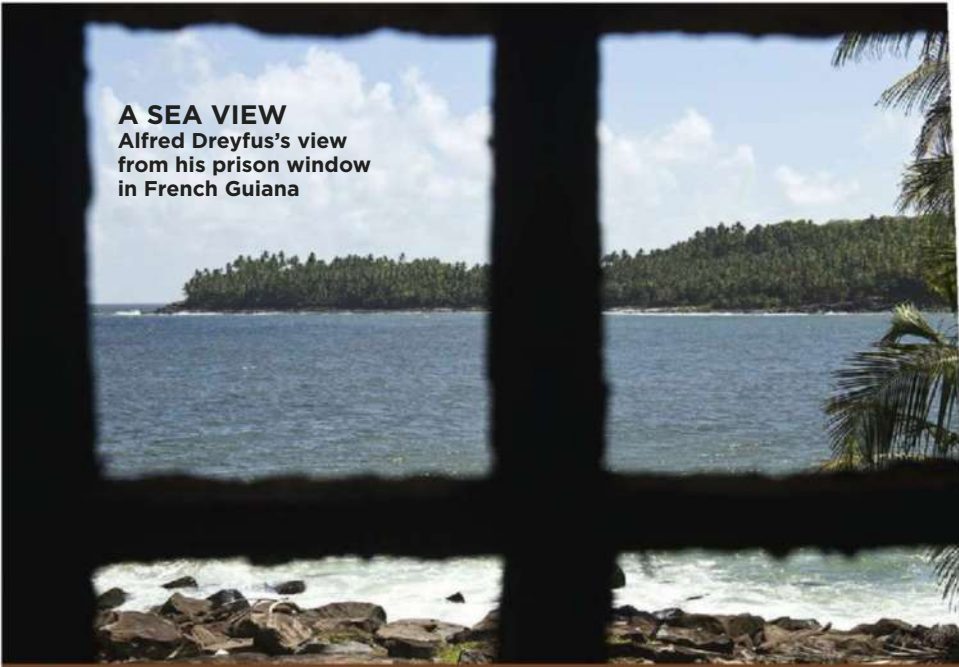
with danger, the final destination surrounded in uncertainty, and the chance of a return voyage very much in doubt.

Phillip was always going to have his hands full, with the unusual freight his fleet was carrying, and plans for a mutiny were discovered within seven days of setting sail, resulting in a flogging for the convicts involved. Thereafter, the main problems were drunkenness and illicit sexual activity on the boats carrying the female convicts. For the most

part, the prisoners were rather well behaved, possibly because they were in a near-constant state of nausea, after being kept in squalid conditions beneath decks for great swathes of the journey.

Progress was steady. They reached Tenerife on 3 June, where an attempted escape was foiled, and – despite a spell in the too-calm waters of the doldrums, when the worried Captain enforced water rationing – crossed the Atlantic to arrive in Rio de Janeiro on 5 August.

**A SEA VIEW**  
Alfred Dreyfus's view  
from his prison window  
in French Guiana



# AROUND THE WORLD

It wasn't just the British with this bright idea...

Banishment has been used as a way of punishing individuals and communities for millennia, but Britain took this concept to a new level. It used transportation both as a way of cleansing its domestic society of perceived undesirables, and a tool to increase its colonial reach around the globe. This trick didn't go unnoticed by other imperial powers, particularly France.

For centuries, France had been attempting to properly colonise its territories in Guiana in South America, but each time they established a settlement there, everyone would die. France was also struggling with its escalating prison population, with their floating hulks housing an average of 5,400 prisoners. The answer was obvious to Napoleon III in the 1850s: remove prisoners from the hulks and set up a colony of disposables – kill two (jail) birds with one stone.

The first batch of transportees – supposedly the worst criminals in the system – were extricated from the hulks and transferred to the new Cayennes penal colony in French Guiana in 1852. The convicts soon discovered they were escaping from one hell only to be plunged into another – this one enlivened with tropical discomforts and diseases.

The penal colony had a base on the mainland, but the inmates were primarily held on an offshore archipelago somewhat ironically called *Îles du Salut* (Islands of Salvation). Political prisoners were housed on the more appropriately named *Île du Diable* (Devil's Island).

The colony would become infamous for its rough treatment of inmates, and also

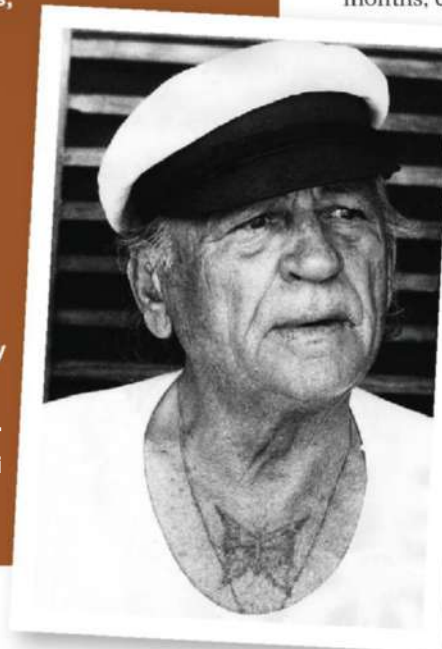
for hosting Captain Alfred Dreyfus from 1895-99. Against a background of anti-Semitism, Dreyfus had been accused of passing information to Germany and convicted of treason. The charge was baseless, and he was exonerated, but not before spending four years in one of the world's most notorious prisons.

The penal colony was also the subject of the bestseller *Papillon*, by French author Henri Charrière, who spent time in the St-Laurent-du-Maroni part of Cayennes in the 1930s, and became one of the very few prisoners to escape. The increasingly controversial system was finally completely closed down in 1953.

France also operated a penal colony in the Pacific, on the islands of New Caledonia, where up to 22,000 criminals and political prisoners were transported between the 1860s and 1897. The most famous of these convicts were members of the Communards, arrested after the failed 1871 Paris Commune. This group included the polemist Henri de Rochefort, and Louise Michel, who had provided medical support to injured Communards and later became a very active anarchist.

## ESCAPE ARTIST

Author Henri Charrière, who penned *Papillon*



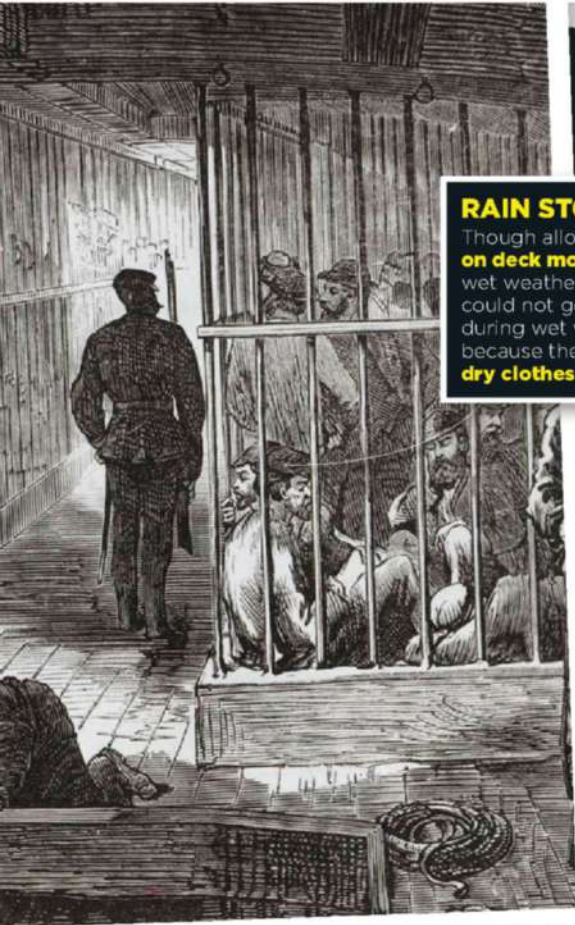
**CAGED ANIMALS**  
On the voyage, the prisoners  
were kept in cells well below  
deck, where they were badly  
affected by sea sickness

◀ The fleet spent a month here. While convicts were confined to the ships, the crew made the most of their chance to carouse with the locals, in between restocking and repairing the boats and dealing with issues such as a lice infestation that was tormenting the female prisoners. Unfortunately, these women were reduced to wearing sacks when their clothing was burned.

On 13 October, a second crossing of the Atlantic delivered the fleet to the Dutch colony of Cape Town, their final opportunity to restock and last chance to taste modern European-style civilisation before surfing the westerly Roaring Forties winds off the edge of polite society's map. The boats were weighed down with extensive supplies, including livestock, by the time they faced the ferocious Southern Ocean.

The final stage of the journey took two months, during which time the fleet was variously battered by tempests and becalmed by flat seas. Van Diemen's Land (now Tasmania) was spotted on 4 January and, 12 days later, Phillip boarded the swift *Supply* and prepared to lead a flying squadron of the four fastest boats into Botany Bay ahead of the others, to prepare the terrain for landing. That plan didn't quite work out, as the ships all arrived within two days of each other, but, on 18 January 1788, the *Supply* sailed into Botany Bay.

All 11 ships made landfall by 20 January. Phillip had led one of the most remarkable sea



#### RAIN STOPS PLAY

Though allowed to **exercise on deck most days**, during wet weather the convicts could not go above board during wet weather, because they had **no spare dry clothes** to change into.



#### SOLDIERING ON

Major Ross, played by Joseph Millson, watches over the convicts as they get to work in the BBC drama, *Banished*

journeys ever made – a voyage that had crossed 15,000 miles of open ocean in 252 days, without the loss of a single ship and with a fatality rate of just 3 percent – particularly impressive given the state of his human cargo. Little did he know, however, that his biggest challenges lay right in front of him.

### UN-PROMISED LAND

The potential pastures promised by Banks and Cook were nowhere to be seen. Worse, Phillip was perturbed to discover that fresh water was scarce in Botany Bay. The ever-capable Captain quickly concluded that this was no place to try and build a settlement, and within days he had explored the coast and located Port Jackson, 7½ miles further north, which Cook had named but not explored.

With several officers, including Captain John Hunter, Phillip entered the port on 21 January and landed at a spot he named Sydney Cove, in honour of England's Home Secretary, Thomas Townshend, 1st Viscount Sydney. They explored the site for two days, and finding it had everything Botany Bay lacked, Phillip determined that the embryonic colony should be shifted on 24 January. A severe storm delayed the move by a day, during which the English were flabbergasted to encounter a brace of French ships at the entrance of Botany Bay.

*L'Astrolabe* and *La Boussole* were under the authority of Captain Robert Sutton de Clonard, who was equally surprised at the sight of the shambolic days-old English convict colony. Cordial communication took place between Hunter on the *Sirius* and Clonard, who explained they were part of a French fleet exploring the South Pacific, under Commander Jean-François de Galaup, comte de Lapérouse.

## SYDNEY'S LABOUR PAINS

Setting up this penal colony was far from simple

By July 1788, the First Fleet's nine transport ships had left, and only the navy vessels *Syrius* and *Supply* remained in Sydney. Completely isolated, the settlement had to quickly become self-sufficient or perish and Governor Phillip had his work cut out.

Already surrounded by convicts, Phillip didn't need any more enemies and he encouraged a friendly approach to the local Eora people, but clashes were inevitable. After a series of incidents, a local man called Pemulwuy waged a campaign against the newcomers, killing Phillip's gamekeeper John McIntyre, which led to a drawn-out conflict.

The marines were badly led, ill-disciplined and often drunk, while the convicts commonly came from city backgrounds and few had skills useful to the creation of a new colony amid ultra-wild bushland. Many were sick from the journey, and the healthier ones soon became exhausted with a routine of heavy labour fuelled by poor diet.

Supplies were a constant concern – the Europeans struggled to find edible native plants, the soil was poor for planting and they failed miserably at fishing. For a long period they survived on rations they'd brought from Cape Town supplemented by the odd kangaroo.

The two ships made a number of runs to Cape Town and Batavia for emergency supplies. But each trip took months and, in February 1790, the *Syrius* was wrecked off Norfolk Island, over 1,000 miles east of Sydney, where a second convict settlement had been set up.

The colony teetered on the edge of starvation for nearly two years and, when the long-awaited second fleet finally arrived in June 1790, it brought little relief. A quarter of those on board had been lost to sickness. The third fleet was even worse.

Eventually, however, better land was discovered to the west of Sydney Cove, on the Parramatta River, where another settlement, Rose Hill, was established.

New ships began to arrive regularly and, by the time Phillip departed for home on 11 December 1792, having overseen the arrival of over 4,300 convicts, he left behind a viable colony.

#### NATIVE WARRIOR

Pemulwuy of the local Eora people, who waged war on the colonists





## THE BIG STORY CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

After leaving Botany Bay a few days later, this entire expedition was lost at sea.

To the frustration of Phillip, the storm continued to rage throughout the following days, and several of the English fleet's ships were damaged in collisions while trying to escape Botany Bay. Only the *Supply*, with Phillip on board, managed to reach Sydney Cove on 25 January. Possibly spooked by the unexpected presence of the French, Phillip rowed ashore very early the next morning and took possession of the land in the name

**TOWN PLANNING**  
Aboriginal people make a fire in front of the rapidly expanding British settlement at Sydney

**£84,000**

The cost to Britain of outfitting and despatching the First Fleet to Australia

of King George III. The rest of the fleet finally reached the cove later that day.

### DAY TO REMEMBER

The date of 26 January is now celebrated as Australia Day by much of the

country – and referred to as Invasion Day by the remnants of the indigenous peoples who had occupied the land for the previous 60,000 years, and for whom colonisation would spell abject disaster. The formal establishment of the Colony of New South Wales followed around a fortnight later, on 7 February 1788.

And thus began the life of a country created largely by convicts. Famines and rebellions



### FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS...

The Sydney Opera House sits on Bennelong Point – at the edge of the convicts' cove

plagued the population for the first two years, but Phillips did, in time, establish a permanent, self-sufficient community. Though most of its criminal founders remained incarcerated by the tyranny of distance, they had ultimately escaped the worst horrors of a justice system that still had its roots in the middle ages. 📍



## GET HOOKED

Still got time to kill? Sentence yourself to see, read and watch this lot...

### LOCATIONS



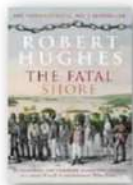
#### ▲ THE CLINK PRISON MUSEUM

Experience what it was like to be sent to the Clink – the notorious Southwark prison that operated from the 12th century until 1780 – by visiting the original site, now a museum. [www.clink.co.uk](http://www.clink.co.uk)

#### ALSO VISIT

- The site of London's Tyburn Tree gallows, on Edgware Road
- The Crime Museum Uncovered, Museum of London, [www.museumoflondon.org.uk](http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk)

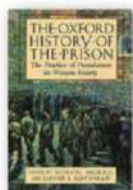
### BOOKS



#### THE FATAL SHORE (LATEST EDITION, 2003)

Robert Hughes

Approaching 30 years old, this epic, exhaustively researched tome remains the turn-to authority on transportation to Australia.



#### THE OXFORD HISTORY OF THE PRISON (1997)

David Rothman and Norval Morris (editors)

An informative look back at crime and punishment in Western society, by experts and authors addressing the subject from different angles.

#### ALSO READ

- Crime and Society in England: 1750-1900 (2012) by Clive Emsley
- A History of the British Police: From its Earliest Beginnings to the Present Day (2011) by Richard Cowley

### ON SCREEN

#### BANISHED (2015)

A well-researched, historically inspired drama set in the penal colony of New South Wales at its birth.



#### ALSO SEE

- Jack the Ripper: the Definitive Story (2011) narrated by leading ripperologist, Paul Begg
- Papillon (1973), a film adaptation of Henri Charrière's prison memoir

— YOUR ANCESTORS WERE —


# PRETTY AMAZING

**FREE  
14 DAY  
TRIAL**

**Discover their stories today with Findmypast**

[www.findmypast.co.uk/history-mag](http://www.findmypast.co.uk/history-mag)

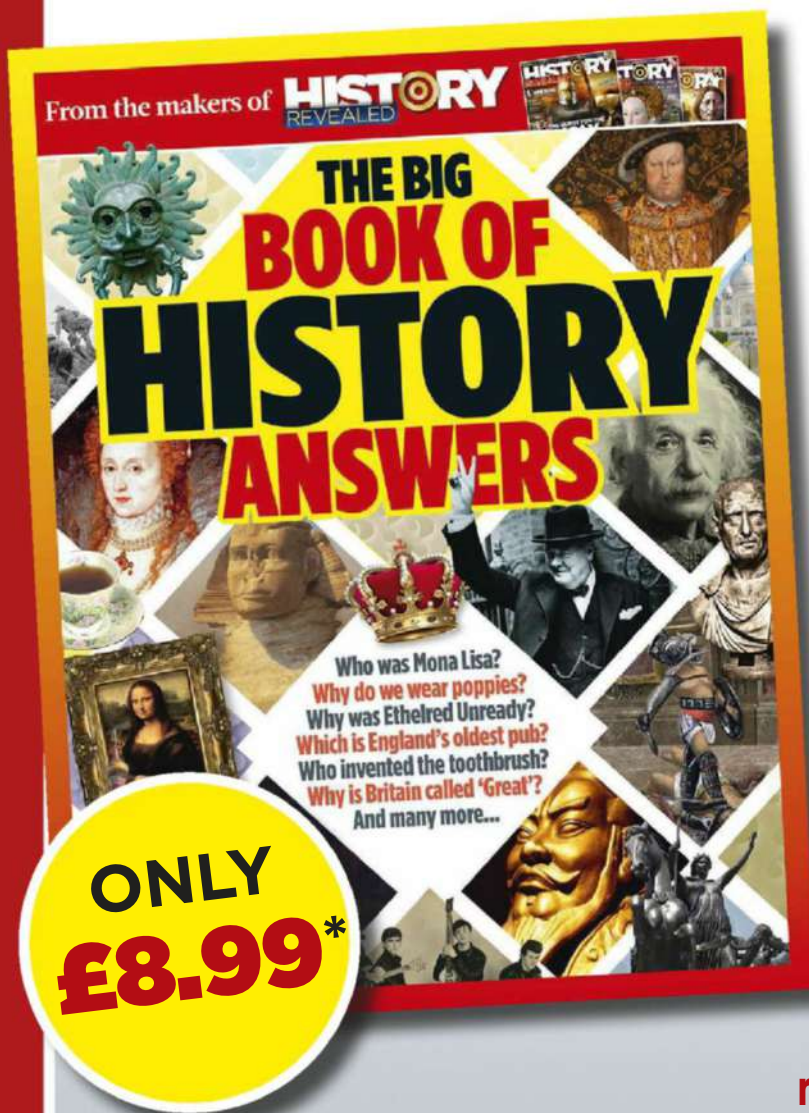
 findmypast

 @findmypast

find my past 

From the makers of **HISTORY REVEALED**

# THE BIG BOOK OF HISTORY ANSWERS



**When was Britain last invaded?**

**How old is the toilet seat?**

**Could women be medieval knights?**

Find the answers to these questions and hundreds more in this bumper Q&A compendium from *History Revealed*. Inside, a panel of eggheads answers questions on ten different topics, including the Ancient World, Kings & Queens, Medieval Times and the Two World Wars.

#### INSIDE YOU WILL FIND:

- Hundreds of facts to thrill history fans of all ages
- Exciting, rare historical photographs
- Fascinating infographics

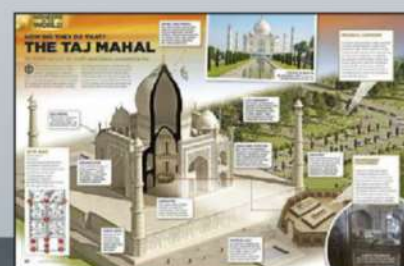
**PLUS** subscribers to *History Revealed* receive **FREE UK postage** on this special edition!



**FOOD & DRINK** – one of ten chapters packed with busted myths and top trivia



**GRAPHIC HISTORY** – Pompeii is revealed in facts and figures, along with many other topics



**WONDERS OF THE WORLD** – take a closer look at the Taj Mahal, as well as ten other historic sites

**ORDER ONLINE**

**[www.buysubscriptions.com/historyanswers](http://www.buysubscriptions.com/historyanswers)**

Quote code **HQAHA15**

**OR BY PHONE 0844 844 0388<sup>†</sup>** Quote code **HQAHA15**

<sup>†</sup>Calls will cost 7p per minute plus your telephone company's access charge. Lines are open 8am-8pm weekdays & 9am-1pm Saturday.

\*Subscribers to *History Revealed* receive FREE UK postage on this special edition. Prices including postage are: £10.49 for all non-subscriber UK residents, £11.99 for Europe and £12.49 for Rest of World. All orders subject to availability. Please allow up to 21 days for delivery.



**BRAINS AND BEAUTY**

There are very few descriptions of the famously attractive Eleanor. Here she is shown in a 14th-century German painting



# THE WOMAN WHO COMMANDED MEDIEVAL EUROPE

From teenage duchess to elderly mother of kings, one woman sat at the heart of European politics for six decades. **Jonny Wilkes** salutes super-shrewd Eleanor of Aquitaine

## THE HISTORY MAKERS ELEANOR OF AQUITAINE



### 1137 WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES

At the start of the year, Eleanor – the daughter of the Duke of Aquitaine, aged around 14 or 15 – spends her days receiving an excellent education and riding her horse. By Christmas Day, however, she has not only inherited vast amounts of land and wealth, but has married the French Prince Louis and is crowned as queen consort.



### 1147 OFF TO THE CRUSADES

Eleanor travels with her first husband, King Louis VII of France, on the Second Crusade to the Holy Land, making the perilous journey to Jerusalem. Three years earlier, during a conflict with one of his lords, Louis's army

had captured and burned down the town of Vitry while 1,000 townspeople were taking refuge in the church. Louis feels so guilty over the massacre that he eagerly embarks on the Crusade in the hope of absolving his sins.

**W**hen her father died in 1137, Eleanor of Aquitaine, still just a teenager, became the most eligible heiress in all of Europe. She

was not only beautiful, smart and tenacious, but the 15-year-old had inherited expansive territories in the south of France and a great fortune, making her the ideal choice of wife for the powerful or ambitious young men of the continent.

In a 12th-century world dictated by men, even wealthy women like Eleanor rarely had a say in their own life – the most important roles they could perform were as trading commodities (to be married off as part of political alliances) and to bear male heirs. It therefore seemed that Eleanor's future as a doting and loyal wife was laid before her and yet, for more than 60 years,

she refused to accept this fate. Politically shrewd and dynamic, she skilfully manoeuvred herself to the peak of European politics – rising to be the queen consort of both France and England – and established her own legacy as two of her sons would go on to be kings. Eleanor held her own in a male-dominated society to be, arguably, the most powerful woman of the Middle Ages.

### THRUST INTO POWER

As the records of Eleanor's life are sketchy at best, there is no detailed description of her appearance, despite the abundant praise of her beauty, while the date of her birth remains unknown (although it is thought to have been in 1122). Daughter of William X, the Duke of Aquitaine and Count of Poitiers, Eleanor received a full and diverse education growing up in her father's court, which was viewed as

a centre of culture. Unlike other girls of the time, she was introduced to subjects such as literature, languages and philosophy. Then when her brother died young, Eleanor began receiving the requisite training to be William's heir, equipping her with a deep understanding of politics, power and court protocol.

The teenage Eleanor was a quick and avid learner, which turned out to be a necessity when her father fell ill and died suddenly while on a pilgrimage. Thrust into her inherited duchy, Eleanor now controlled a large domain – more land, in fact, than French King Louis VI, who, at her father's request, was made her guardian. Within hours of the King hearing the news, Eleanor had been betrothed to his heir, also named Louis. The pair were married in July 1137, shortly before the King died and Eleanor's 17-year-old husband became Louis VII.

In a matter of months, Eleanor went from duchess-in-waiting to queen consort of France. What's more, the unworldly and weak-minded Louis adored her for her intelligence, strength and, as described by contemporary writers, for being "perpulchra", meaning 'more than beautiful'. Eleanor, on the other hand, was not so devoted to her husband, allegedly announcing: "I thought I was wed to a king, now I find I am wed to a monk." For the first decade of their marriage, she exerted considerable influence over his rule

**ALISON WEIR, HISTORIAN**  
"She was no shrinking violet, but a tough, capable and resourceful woman ... remarkable in a period when females were invariably relegated to a servile role."





## 1152 FROM ONE KING TO THE OTHER

Following the failure of the Crusade, and Eleanor and Louis' subsequent return to France, their marriage falls apart and eventually ends when a committee of bishops grants an annulment. Eleanor doesn't stay single for long, as she marries the heir to the throne of England, Henry, Duke of Normandy, only two months later.

– dominated by conflicts with his own lords as well as with the Pope – and gave birth to only one child, a daughter.

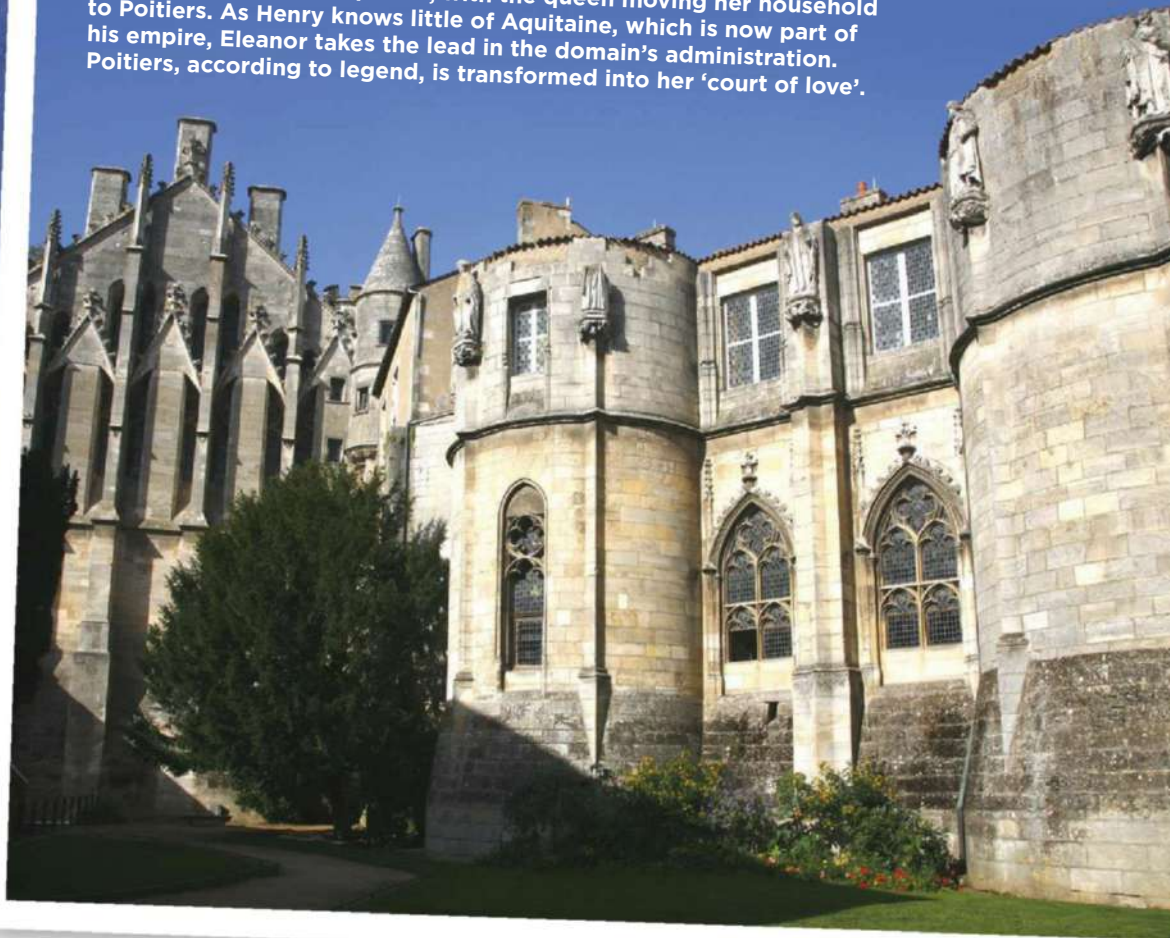
In 1147, in an attempt to restore favour with Rome, the pious Louis embarked on the Second Crusade to win control of Jerusalem over the Turks, and Eleanor made the surprising decision to accompany him. She knew that this meant a journey of thousands of miles over treacherous lands, risking disease and experiencing the

## “Eleanor’s second marriage would change the political landscape of Europe and create a vast empire”

horrors of war, but Eleanor remained steadfast, even taking her own military support with her. The crusade was ultimately a failure and the greatest danger Eleanor faced during the two-year expedition came not from the Turks, but a scandalous rumour that she was having an incestuous affair with her uncle, Raymond, ruler of Antioch (in modern-day Turkey). As Louis' suspicions of his queen's behaviour deepened, the couple grew more estranged and Eleanor risked being accused of treason.

## 1167 POWER IN POITIERS

Although they have had five sons and three daughters together, Eleanor and Henry II separate, with the queen moving her household to Poitiers. As Henry knows little of Aquitaine, which is now part of his empire, Eleanor takes the lead in the domain's administration. Poitiers, according to legend, is transformed into her 'court of love'.



Yet, it was her who made the daring first move against Louis and began seeking an annulment on the grounds of consanguinity (meaning they shouldn't have been permitted to marry in the first place as they were too closely related by blood). Her efforts, which would have been unprecedented if successful, achieved nothing and she was forced to travel back to France with Louis and the remains of his doomed crusade. There seemed to be signs of a reconciliation,

there was even a plot to abduct her so she would be forced to marry Geoffrey, Count of Nantes, but Eleanor was warned and just able to escape. That said, despite this shocking abduction attempt, she did controversially marry Geoffrey's brother. Only two months after the annulment, and risking Louis' wrath, she was wed to Henry, Count of Anjou and Duke of Normandy – the grandson of King Henry I of England – in a small service at Poitiers Cathedral. Henry, 11 years her junior, was much more suited to Eleanor's personality as he was strong, courageous, bursting with energy, ambitious and charming, although he also had a ferocious temper. When he was crowned as Henry II of England in 1154, Eleanor's second marriage changed the political landscape of Europe and created a vast empire. Their shared domain stretched from England's northernmost border to the Pyrenees in the south of France. Eleanor spent many years travelling between England and France playing an integral part in the running of these territories.

Theirs was a fiery, tempestuous marriage. In some ways, it was very successful – Eleanor gave birth to eight children, with the three daughters going on to marry into Europe's ruling dynasties – but they also fought often. Eleanor strived for the same influence she had held over her first husband, but Henry was much more assertive and unwilling to delegate power,

especially when a second daughter was born, but the relationship continued to deteriorate until, in 1152, Louis was eventually granted an annulment. Eleanor immediately left Paris and made for Poitiers.

### EMPIRE BUILDER

Having regained Aquitaine from Louis, the newly single Eleanor, aged 30, was again a highly attractive prospect for Europe's bachelors. Such was her appeal for an alliance,



## THE HISTORY MAKERS ELEANOR OF AQUITAINE



### 1173 FAMILY FEUD

One of Eleanor and Henry II's sons, 'Young Henry', flees to France to launch a plot to overthrow his father. There he receives the support of two of his brothers, Richard and Geoffrey. Eleanor sides with her sons, but is captured by her husband's forces before she can muster the nobles in Aquitaine. She remains a prisoner for 16 years.

particularly to a woman. In 1167, Eleanor left Henry's court and moved her household to Poitiers, where she grasped the opportunity to rule Aquitaine in Henry's name. Why she separated from Henry remains debatable; some argued she resented the lack of power she was being given, while others claim she had grown angry at his increasingly flagrant infidelities.

Any loyalty Eleanor felt towards Henry had eroded by 1173, when one of their sons, 'Young Henry', launched a revolt in the hope of seizing the throne. He was joined by two of his brothers as well as Eleanor, who provided military support from disillusioned nobles in Aquitaine. The rebellion plunged the royal family into civil war and Eleanor was captured and imprisoned for the next 16 years. And although the King offered mercy to his surviving sons, the betrayal of his wife clearly cut deeper – he kept her captive until his death in 1189. Only when her son Richard (the Lionheart) came to the throne was Eleanor released.

After so long away from power, Eleanor was ardent in achieving influence in Richard's new regime, and she was rewarded with more than she could have hoped. As Richard had dreams of glory in the Third Crusade, he sailed to the Holy Land and left his mother to rule as regent, despite her being in her late 60s. Maybe after her own aborted effort in the Crusades, she



### 1183 DEATHBED REQUEST

After years of rebelling against his father, young Henry falls ill. On his deathbed, he begs Henry II to show mercy to Eleanor and release her from imprisonment. Eleanor enjoys more freedom than she has for a decade, but is still a captive until the King's death in 1189.

advised against Richard's actions, arguing that the priority should be securing his new and fragile throne. With him gone, she worked tirelessly to administer the laws of the land – which she did by personally moving from city to city with a royal retinue – and withstood the opportunistic coup led by her other son, John Lackland. When Richard was captured in Germany on his way home, it was Eleanor who collected the hefty ransom for his release.

### SECOND SON

At the time of Richard's death in 1199, having been struck by an arrow at a siege, Eleanor



### 1199 PROTECTING HER SON

When Richard the Lionheart is killed, John becomes Eleanor's second son to be crowned King of England. She previously fought against him when he tried to seize power, but now wholly supports his succession. Despite being very elderly, she works to negotiate peace alliances and defeats a revolt in John's French territories.

John was once again indebted to his ageing mother after her grandson, Arthur of Brittany, attempted to capture England's territories in France, only for Eleanor to muster enough men to rebuff him at Mirebeau in 1202.

It was 65 years after she had inherited her father's land and wealth in Aquitaine that Eleanor finally left the political arena. Retiring to the Anjou monastery at Fontevraud in 1202, she spent her last two years in increasingly poor health, dying on 1 April 1204. When she was buried, next to Henry II, the nuns at Fontevault described Eleanor as a queen "who

surpassed almost all the queens of the world".

Her legacy and longevity would certainly be impressive on their own account, but the fact that she lived at a time when women were nothing more than political pawns makes Eleanor a heavyweight. She was

both king-maker and king-breaker, a woman who refused to accept the traditional position of her gender in a medieval world. ☉

**“The fact that she lived when women were nothing more than political pawns makes Eleanor a heavyweight”**

ensured that her second son, 'Bad King' John, was crowned. She was approaching 80 but remained a dynamic political player. To show her support for John, she even crossed the Pyrenees in winter so that she could escort her granddaughter, Blanche, back to France to negotiate a key marriage alliance that would keep the peace between John and the French King. In the first years of the 13th century,

   **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

Who are the other women who fought to make themselves known in the medieval world?

Email: [editor@historyrevealed.com](mailto:editor@historyrevealed.com)



## 1204 ELEANOR'S END

Aged around 82, Eleanor dies at the monastery of Fontevraud, in Anjou, where she is buried alongside Henry II. The effigy on her tomb is the only likeness of her to have survived, but it is unlikely to be an accurate portrayal of her appearance. As a sign of her brilliant intelligence and political skill, she is seen holding a book.

**“Two sons remain  
to my solace,  
who today survive  
to punish me,  
miserable and  
condemned. King  
Richard is held in  
chains. His brother,  
John, depletes his  
kingdom with  
iron and lays it  
waste with fire.”**

*Eleanor of Aquitaine*

## QUEEN OF HEARTS ELEANOR'S COURT OF LOVE

During her marriage to King Henry II of England, Eleanor was not only interested in holding power, but using it to promote culture and chivalry. In 1167, she set up her court in Poitiers so that she could rule Aquitaine independently of her husband. She supposedly transformed Poitiers into a model of etiquette and manners, where she encouraged her courtiers to live chivalrous lives. She was also a patron of poetry, welcoming troubadours to perform their romantic songs. The ‘Court of Love’, as it is now known, was a unique experiment that, it is

claimed, influenced literature and music long after it disappeared following her imprisonment in 1173. Few records remain, though, that prove the existence of the Court of Love at all.



### LOVE LETTERS

This casket shows scenes of courtship from medieval love poetry, as showcased at Eleanor's ‘Court of Love’ in Poitiers



## IN PICTURES ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR, 1941



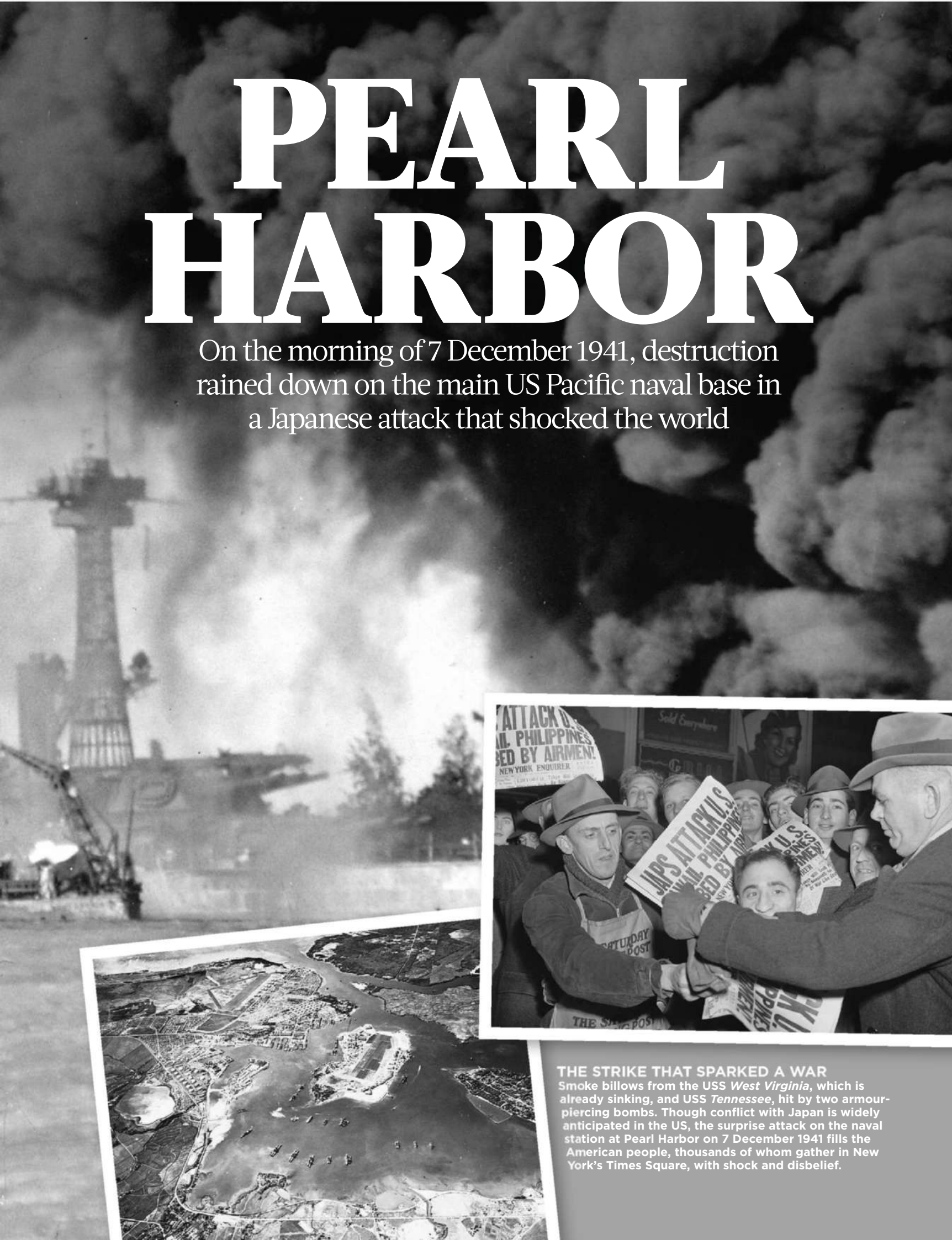
### AT A GLANCE

After World War I, the United States maintained a policy of neutrality. But a decade of Japanese expansion into China, and its invasion of French Indochina in 1940, led the US to move its Pacific fleet to the base at Pearl Harbor, on the Hawaiian island of Oahu. Fearful of Japanese plans to overrun South East Asia, the US halted exports of key resources, particularly oil, to Japan. When diplomacy failed to break the deadlock, the Japanese military planned an attack aiming to disable the US fleet and remove any block to an invasion of the Dutch East Indies.

GETTY X2, CORBIS X1, PRESS ASSOCIATION X1

# PEARL HARBOR

On the morning of 7 December 1941, destruction rained down on the main US Pacific naval base in a Japanese attack that shocked the world



## THE STRIKE THAT SPARKED A WAR

Smoke billows from the USS *West Virginia*, which is already sinking, and USS *Tennessee*, hit by two armour-piercing bombs. Though conflict with Japan is widely anticipated in the US, the surprise attack on the naval station at Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941 fills the American people, thousands of whom gather in New York's Times Square, with shock and disbelief.

## IN PICTURES ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR, 1941

There was little to suggest that 7 December 1941 would be anything other than a typically quiet Sunday for the American military personnel stationed at Pearl Harbor. Many planned to spend the morning at church or taking it easy in their barracks. Yes, tensions between America and Japan were simmering, and many believed that armed confrontation was imminent. But the US naval base in Hawaii was believed to be completely safe, being too far from Japan for a direct strike. Any attack would surely, it was thought, hit somewhere closer to mainland Asia, so the base – home to the majority of the US Pacific fleet as well as hundreds of aircraft – was only moderately well defended.

No one contemplated the idea that all-out war involving the United States would start at Pearl Harbor. Yet in a matter of hours, this illusion of security was shattered by a devastating surprise attack that left thousands dead, the fleet virtually crippled and the President with little choice but to take the US into World War II.

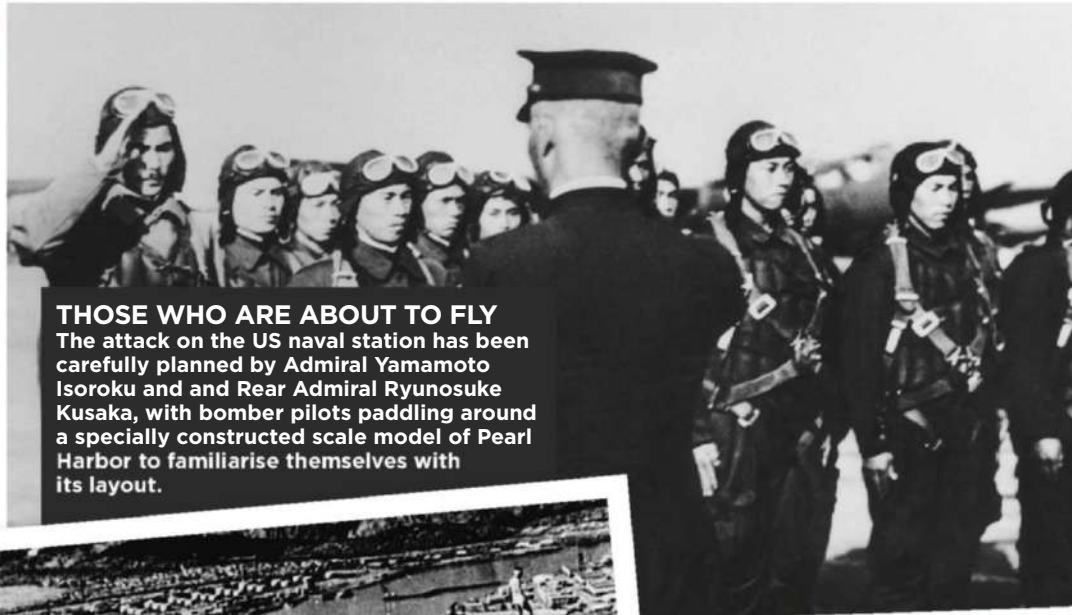
### PREPARING FOR CONFLICT

Relations between the US and Japan had deteriorated during the 1930s. The Americans strongly opposed Japanese expansion into China, which had progressed into a brutally violent invasion, while the Japanese resented the sanctions that curbed their supplies of oil and other vital resources. What's more, Japan had allied with Nazi Germany and Italy, and though the US remained a non-combatant, President Franklin D Roosevelt was already supplying Britain and its allies with arms under a 'lend-lease' system.

When efforts at diplomacy failed – the US demanded a complete withdrawal from China, which was unacceptable to its counterpart in the east – Japanese Prime Minister Tojo Hideki and his government prepared for conflict. Rather than declaring war, though, they planned a pre-emptive strike. Pearl Harbor was a tempting target: a successful attack there would limit American intervention that could hamper Japan's aggressive expansion into South East Asia, and would crush US morale. The strike was meticulously planned by Admiral Yamamoto Isoroku, commander-in-chief of Japan's Combined Fleet, and Rear Admiral Ryunosuke Kusaka, who ensured that pilots were trained for months before the order to attack was given.

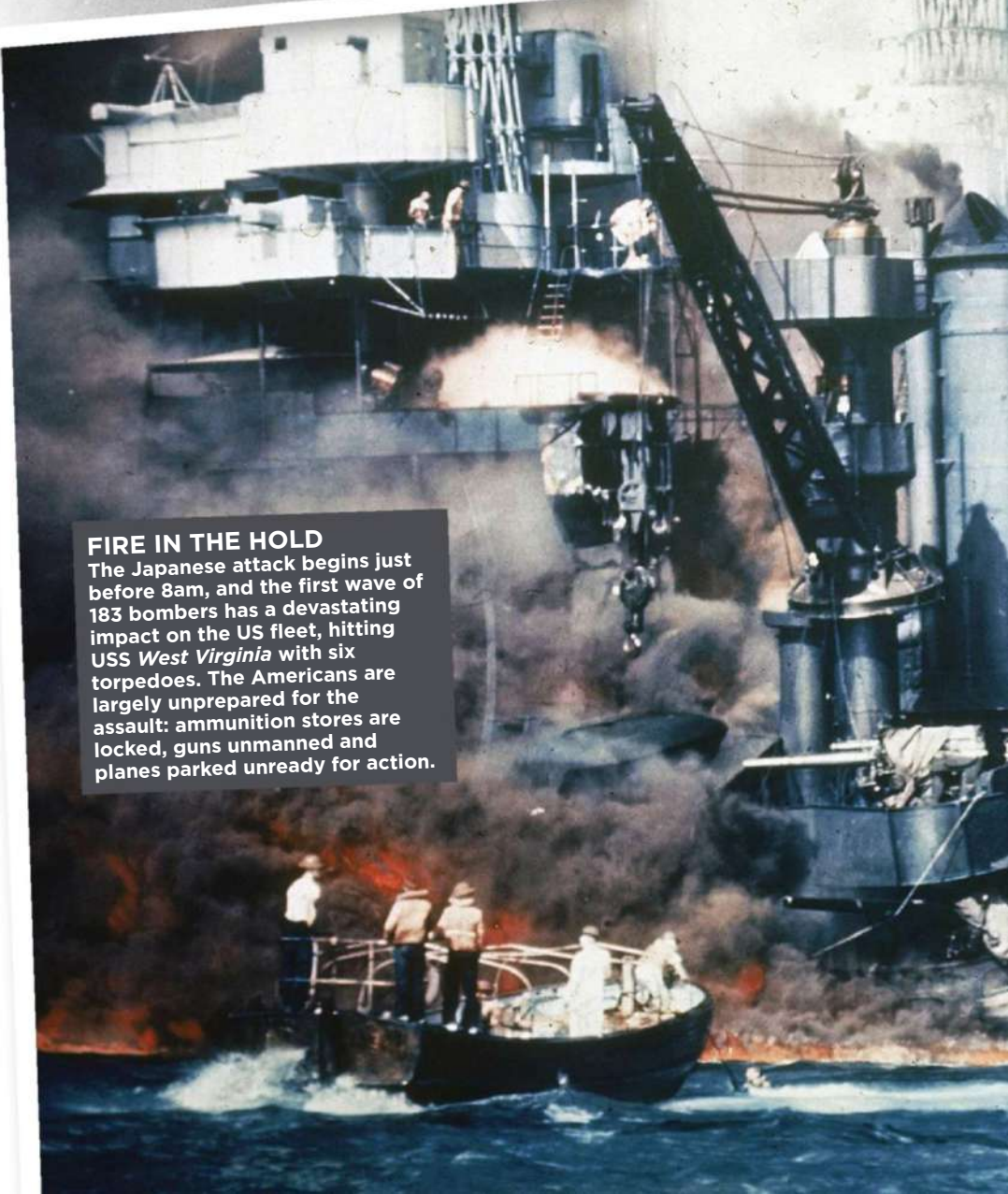
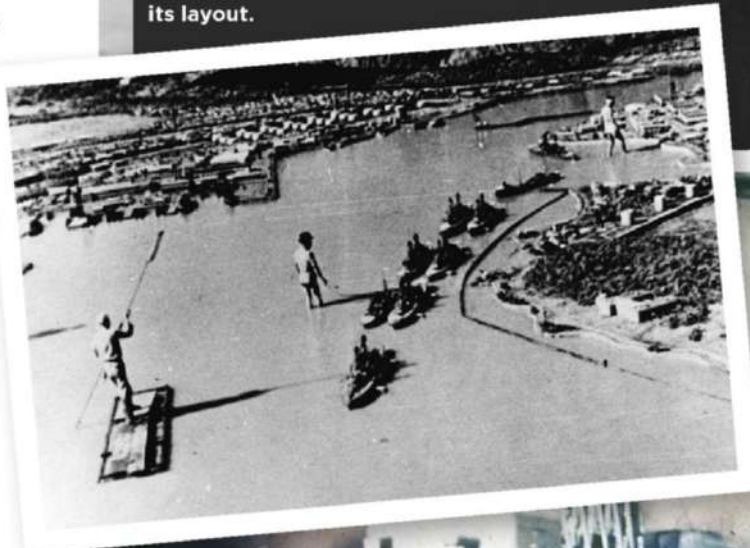
On 26 November, a fleet carrying some 360 planes was launched, zig-zagging across the Pacific to avoid detection – the voyage to its destination, around 300 miles north of Hawaii, took over a week. Then, on 7 December, the fleet was in position – and the attack was unleashed.

Shortly before 8am, the rumble of engines was heard over Pearl Harbor, and it wasn't long before people on the ground spotted dive-bombers and fighters. The first wave of 183 craft



### THOSE WHO ARE ABOUT TO FLY

The attack on the US naval station has been carefully planned by Admiral Yamamoto Isoroku and and Rear Admiral Ryunosuke Kusaka, with bomber pilots paddling around a specially constructed scale model of Pearl Harbor to familiarise themselves with its layout.



### FIRE IN THE HOLD

The Japanese attack begins just before 8am, and the first wave of 183 bombers has a devastating impact on the US fleet, hitting USS *West Virginia* with six torpedoes. The Americans are largely unprepared for the assault: ammunition stores are locked, guns unmanned and planes parked unready for action.

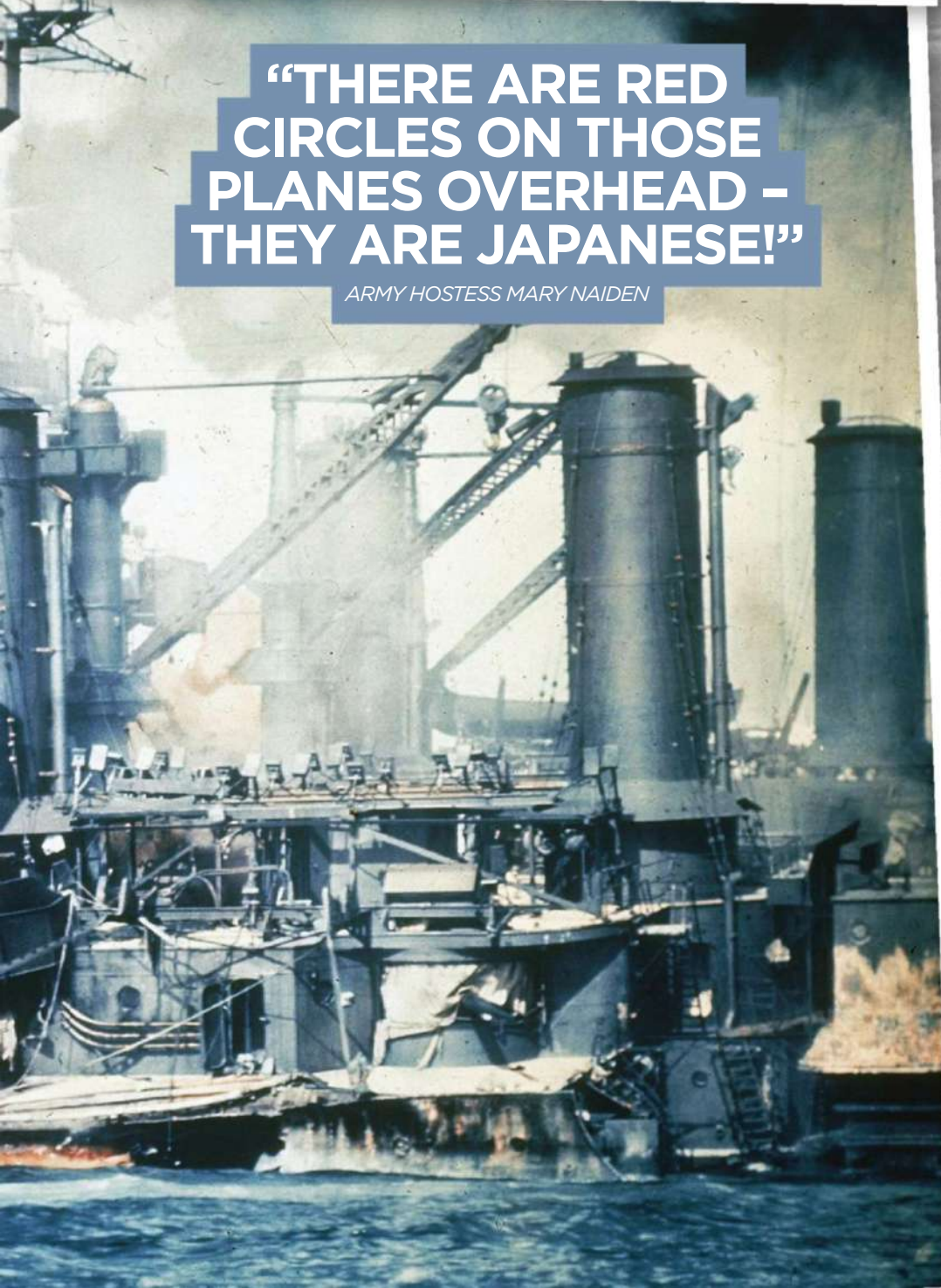


### BOMBS AWAY

With the Japanese task force of six aircraft carriers arrived at the launch site a little north-west of Hawaii, the scene is set for the strike. The first wave of planes largely comprises slower bombers carrying aerial torpedoes to attack battleships, with fighters to strafe parked aircraft and dive bombers to focus on ground targets.

**"THERE ARE RED CIRCLES ON THOSE PLANES OVERHEAD – THEY ARE JAPANESE!"**

ARMY HOSTESS MARY NAIDEN



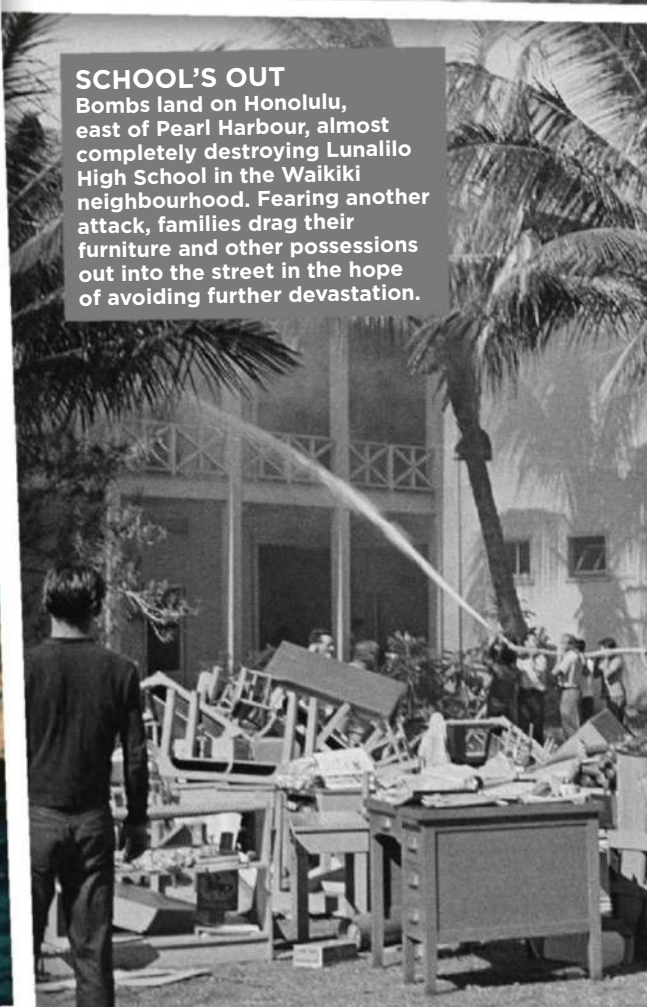
### HOME FIRES

Dozens of civilians, many of them families of military personnel, are killed or injured in the attack. Army hostess Mary Naiden takes this photo, then exclaims in horror: "There are red circles on those planes overhead – they are Japanese!"



### SCHOOL'S OUT

Bombs land on Honolulu, east of Pearl Harbour, almost completely destroying Lunalilo High School in the Waikiki neighbourhood. Fearing another attack, families drag their furniture and other possessions out into the street in the hope of avoiding further devastation.





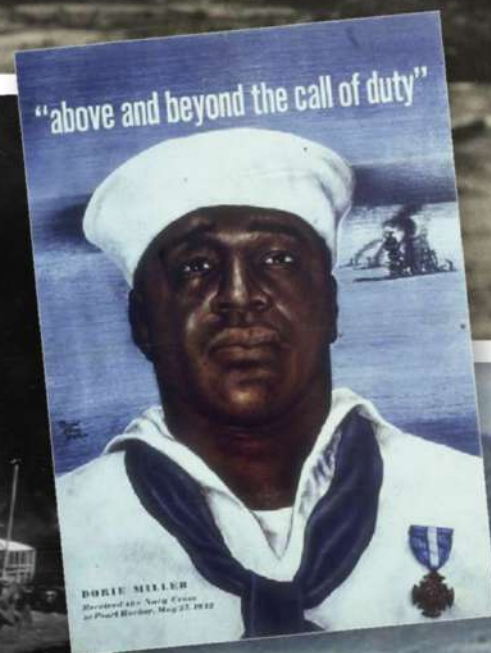
## IN PICTURES ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR, 1941

### PLANE WRECKS

The second wave of the Japanese attack, comprising 171 planes including fighters, torpedo carriers and dive bombers, strafes and bombs airfields at and around Pearl Harbor. More than 400 US aircraft are stationed on Oahu. Nearly half are destroyed, most of the rest damaged, and just a handful are able to launch and take on the Japanese squadrons.



THE ATTACK WAS  
A TRAGEDY THAT  
AMERICANS STRUGGLED  
TO COMPREHEND



### PHOENIX FROM THE FLAMES

Despite the devastation of the attack, the US fleet bounces back amazingly quickly, even raising some of the vessels sunk by the Japanese - including the USS *California*, shown here engulfed in flames. Within six months, many of the damaged ships are repaired and ready to fight at the decisive Battle of Midway.





### AFTERMATH OF THE ATTACK

After an onslaught lasting just 90 minutes, the US fleet lies in ruins. Some 18 battleships, cruisers and destroyers – including the USS *Downs* and *Cassin*, in drydock at the time of the attack – are sunk, beached or badly damaged.



### FROM VICTIMS TO VICTORS

The attack on Pearl Harbor drives the United States to declare war on Japan and enter the global conflict. The effects are long lasting, and the very mention of the date of the strike – 7 December – used on propaganda posters fuels patriotic support for the war over the coming years of conflict.



### HEROES AND THE FALLEN

Acts of immense bravery characterise the US response to the attack. Dorie Miller, who works mostly in the mess on the USS *West Virginia*, rescues many sailors and mans an anti-aircraft gun, later becoming the first black American to be awarded the Navy Cross. Many more do not survive the assault, and are buried along the shore of the Pacific on Oahu.

had been caught on American radar, but had been mistaken for a flight of B-17 Flying Fortresses arriving from California on a training exercise. With no warning, bombs began to fall and bullets whizzed through the air.

The bulk of the American ships were moored next to Ford Island, at what became known as ‘Battleship Row’, offering easy targets. A direct hit to the USS *Arizona* caused its ammunition store to explode; she sank, taking with her 1,177 souls. More than 400 people died when the USS *Oklahoma* was struck by five torpedoes and capsized, trapping many in the flooded hull. The *California* and *West Virginia* sank, while the *Nevada* beached as it attempted to escape the shallow waters of the harbour. All eight US battleships berthed at Pearl Harbor were destroyed or damaged, as were ten smaller vessels. Hickam and Wheeler airfields fared no better: Japanese strafing and bombing

wrecked more than 180 planes.

American troops were quick to mobilise – a couple of planes were even able to take off – and there were individual acts of extraordinary courage. But the attack was relentless and overwhelming, despite its brevity. Less than two hours after the assault began, the Japanese withdrew, leaving around 2,400 Americans dead and at least 1,000 injured. Japanese losses totalled no more than 30 planes and fewer than 100 men.

### DECLARATION OF WAR

Americans were in shock, and none more so than Roosevelt himself. On 8 December the President addressed Congress, opening his speech with the now-immortal words: “Yesterday, December 7th 1941 – a date which will live in infamy – the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked.” With the country almost entirely united in backing military action, the policy of neutrality was revoked and the United States officially declared war on Japan.

The attack on Pearl Harbor was a tragedy that Americans struggled to comprehend – and it still lingers in the country’s consciousness, remembered as a day of personal suffering and national vulnerability. In fact, in terms of the resulting war effort it could have been much worse. The Japanese had dealt the US war machine a serious blow, but most of the battleships were quickly made seaworthy again. In addition, the fleet’s most precious weapons, its aircraft carriers, were untouched – they had been away from the harbour on manoeuvres when the strike hit. More importantly, Pearl Harbor’s oil depots were left intact, allowing the US to prepare for what would be a lengthy war.

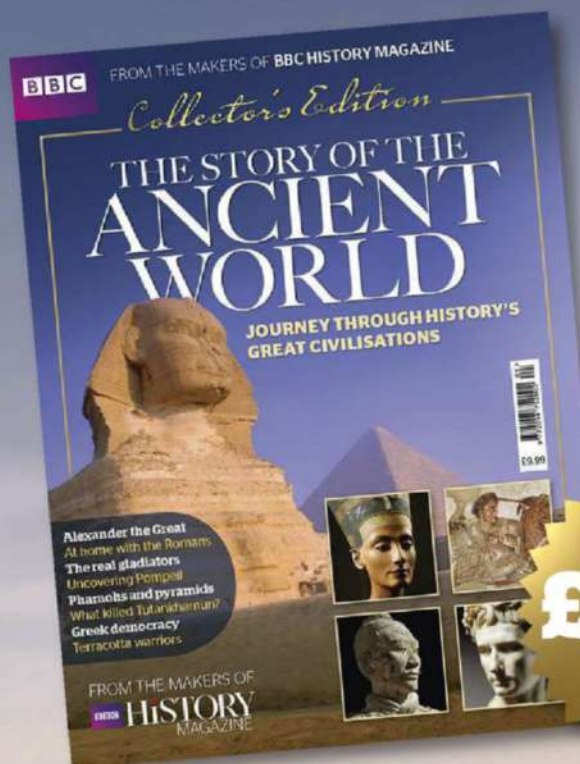
As Japanese Admiral Hara Tadaichi later concluded: “We won a great tactical victory at Pearl Harbor, and thereby lost the war.”

FROM THE MAKERS OF **BBC** **HiSTORY**  
MAGAZINE

*Collector's Edition*

# THE STORY OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

**JOURNEY THROUGH HISTORY'S GREAT CIVILISATIONS**



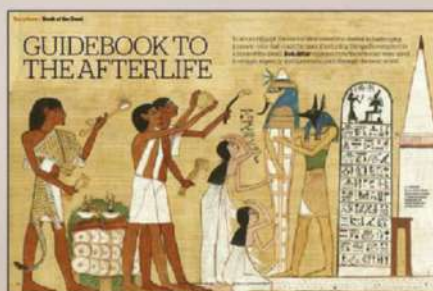
This new compendium of the best articles from *BBC History Magazine* explores the real stories of ancient cultures, from pharaohs and emperors to the lives of ordinary people. Travelling across centuries from Egypt, Greece and Rome to China and Persia, you will learn about remarkable characters and their often turbulent world.

Inside you will find:

- ◆ Fresh insights into ancient mysteries
- ◆ Expert accounts of major events
- ◆ Striking images of ancient wonders
- ◆ Biographies of key figures, from Alexander the Great to Augustus

**ONLY  
£9.99**

**PLUS  
POSTAGE\***



**Find out the secrets of the  
Egyptian Book of the Dead**



**Discover the life of one of the  
greatest empire builders**



**Enjoy a nocturnal adventure  
in ancient Rome**

Order online [www.buysubscriptions.com/ancientworld](http://www.buysubscriptions.com/ancientworld)  
or call us on **0844 844 0250<sup>+</sup>** and quote **ACWHA15**

+ Calls will cost 7p per minute plus your telephone company's access charge. Lines are open 8am–8pm weekdays & 9am–1pm Saturday  
\* Prices including postage are: £11.49 for all UK residents, £12.99 for Europe and £13.49 for Rest of World. All orders subject to availability. Please allow up to 21 days for delivery



## IN A NUTSHELL

Samuel Pepys was a high-ranking naval administrator who, between 1660 and 1669, kept a diary that chronicled both his personal life and the significant events occurring in London. Among these were the restoration of the British monarchy, the Great Plague and the Great Fire of London – events of which Pepys' diary tells us more than any other public record.

**PEPYS, ON THE RECORD**  
This hard-working civil servant lived a remarkable life and, thankfully for us, he wrote many of the best bits down

# PEPYS' SHOW

**Nige Tassell** delves into the diaries of Samuel Pepys, discovering the big events that rocked 17th-century London, as well as private pleasures of both the simple and sensational persuasions...

**T**hat a 26-year-old Exchequer clerk ventured from his home in Axe Yard, Westminster, one chilly December day in 1659, to a stationer's

shop a couple of miles away in the Cornhill area of London, isn't, in itself, remarkable. Nor was the item he bought there – a thick notepad – before returning home. Over the course of the following few evenings, the clerk patiently marked out margins in red ink on all of its 288 pages.

The trip and purchase might have been unremarkable, but what would be set down in the notepad – and in many subsequent notepads – over the following months and years was anything but. For that young clerk's name was Samuel Pepys and the diary he kept for the next nine-and-a-half

years became, arguably, the most celebrated personal journal in history. It not only chronicled his incident-packed young life, it also opened wide a window onto London at a time of enormous social flux.

In his 20s and 30s, Pepys would live through one of the most tumultuous decades in these isles' history, one marked by disease, disaster, war and the small matter of the restoration of the British monarchy. More significantly, he witnessed all of these events from remarkably close quarters. He was travelling on board the same ship that returned Charles II from exile and onto the throne. He became the chief chronicler of both the Great Plague of 1665 and the Great Fire of London the following year. And, as a senior figure in naval administration, he was at the heart of the Second Anglo-Dutch War,

including the Dutch attack on the Medway in 1667.

But, as he started his diary on 1 January 1660, the young Pepys would have had no inkling about the direction of the decade to come, nor his part in it. The son of a poor tailor, he had advanced to study at Cambridge but, since graduation, his career had become thoroughly mundane – certainly in comparison to the lofty heights he went on to scale (he would later become both an MP and the President of the Royal Society). Indeed, as his biographer Claire Tomalin observed, "it was an unpromising moment to embark on a record of his daily activities, and the activities themselves were nothing to boast about".

Margaret Lincoln, editor of a new book, *Samuel Pepys: Plague, Fire, Revolution*, offers several suggestions

## QUILL TO PAPER

BELOW: The opening page of Pepys' journal, penned on 1 January 1660  
BELOW RIGHT: The diarist in 1666, six years into nearly a decade of reflective writing

29 July 1667

**"The kingdom never in so troubled a condition in this world as now; nobody pleased with the peace, and yet nobody daring to wish for the continuance of the war"**

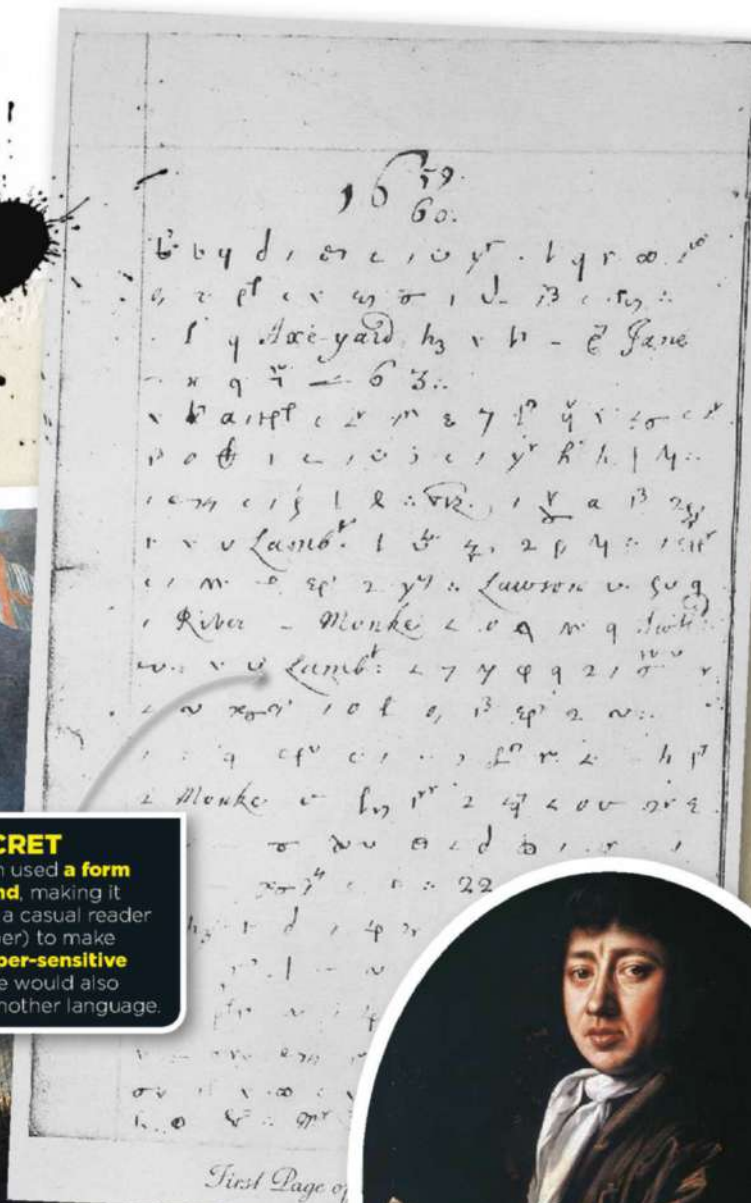
SAMUEL PEPYS

Pepys laments the state of Britain following defeat in the Second Anglo-Dutch War

**SNEAK ATTACK**  
The Dutch navy's surprise raid on the Medway, Kent, June 1667

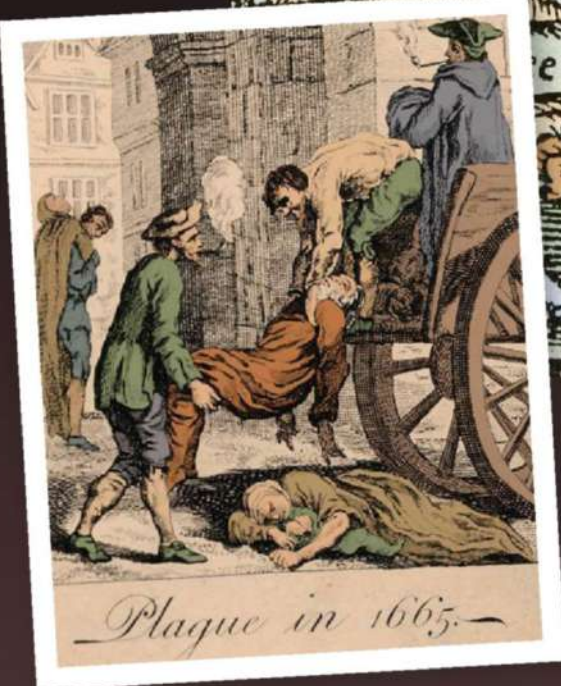
## TOP SECRET

Pepys often used a form of shorthand, making it difficult for a casual reader (or a snooper) to make out. For super-sensitive subjects, he would also switch to another language.



## MORBID CURIOSITY

RIGHT: During the plague outbreak that Pepys lived through, the city became obsessed with death, as this contemporary illustration shows. BELOW: Victims of the disease are loaded onto a 'dead-cart', probably to be taken for burial in a mass grave



7 October 1665

**"Talking with [a constable] in the high way, come close by the bearers with a dead corpse of the plague; but, Lord! to see what custom is, that I am close almost to think nothing of it"**

SAMUEL PEPYS

The Great Plague dominated life in London for many months during 1665 and 1666

# THE GREAT PLAGUE OF LONDON

Pepys' record of Britain's last major plague outbreak gives real insight into the fear that followed the deadly disease...

The Great Plague of 1665-66 was the last major plague in Britain. It was also – after significant plagues in 1603, 1625 and 1636 – the most devastating since the Black Death in the 14th century. Having arrived on English shores from the Netherlands, the infection (probably carried by rat fleas) took the lives of an estimated 100,000 Londoners – around one-fifth of the city's population. At the height of the epidemic, it was responsible for more than 7,000 deaths a week.

Families with a plague victim in their midst were quarantined in their own home

for 40 days, and a red cross painted on their front door to serve as a warning. So great was the number of fatalities that massive grave pits were dug, while places of social gathering – notably theatres – were closed to minimise the disease's spread. Pepys' diary offers an eyewitness account of how the usually busy streets of the capital had emptied, leaving a ghost city. "What a sad time it is to see no boats upon the River," he wrote, "and grass grows all up and down White Hall court, and nobody but poor wretches in the streets."

With several of those around him – including his physician, his aunt and a school friend – having succumbed to the plague, Pepys, like tens of thousands of others, fled the city. When the disease showed signs of regressing in January 1666, the couple returned to the city. But, on his first visit to church back in the capital, Pepys remained uneasy at seeing "so many graves piled so high upon the churchyards... I was much troubled at it, and do not think to go through it again a good while."



as to why Pepys was motivated to embark on the project:

"In 1658, he survived a dangerous operation – without anaesthetic – to have a bladder stone removed. This may have encouraged him to start his diary, as clearly now he was no longer in danger from chronic ill-health. Or it may have been that, with the King's restoration and his own sense that he was finally making his way in the world, he wanted to record his progress in life. He clearly decided to keep the diary with his books for posterity. As he had no children, he may have thought this was a way of keeping his name alive. The diary, together with his valuable library, was a legacy."

## BUMPY START

When, on the first evening he dipped his quill in his inkwell to chronicle the highlights of the day, the results were undeniably prosaic. From that first entry, we learn that he was wearing a suit "with great skirts, having not lately worn any other clothes but them", while his wife Elisabeth "dressed the remains of a turkey for lunch, and in the doing of it she burned her hand". Hardly the most auspicious, gripping opening, but then it's unlikely that Pepys meant the

diary for anyone else to read. He wrote in shorthand, which protected its contents from untrained eyes. And he also kept the entries secret from Elisabeth, not least because he chose to detail his numerous extramarital relations – quite often in a variety of languages to throw her off the scent, should she ever flick through its pages.

Very soon, though, Pepys would have far more significant material to draw upon. In May 1660, he joined the fleet that brought Charles II from The Hague to London, ready for the restoration of the monarchy two years after the end of the rule of Lord Protector Oliver Cromwell. In his diary entry of 23 May, Pepys can hardly contain himself at being so close to such a momentous event.

*"We weighed anchor and with a fresh gale and most happy weather, we set sail for England. All the afternoon the King walked here and there, up and down (quite contrary to what I thought him to have been) very active and stirring. Upon the quarter-deck he fell into discourse of his escape from Worcester [in 1651, to escape from Cromwell's New Model Army], where it made me ready to weep to hear the stories that he told of his difficulties that he had passed through."*

## AN IDEAL HUSBAND?

**ABOVE: Pepys admires his wife Elisabeth's new dress. He wrote in his diary: "My wife this day put on first her French gown, called a sac, which becomes her very well"**

**ABOVE RIGHT: The diarist's wife, Elisabeth Pepys, who was seven years his junior – they were a fiery, fractious pair**

By July 1660, Pepys had been appointed Clerk of the Acts to the Navy Board, a high-ranking civil service position with a fine salary and official accommodation in the city of London. As he increasingly walked the corridors of power, Pepys' diary entries show a curiosity for life at all levels of society. The eminent Pepys scholar Robert Latham once wrote that the diarist's portraits of London and Londoners at a time of huge change and challenge are so successful because they are "something more than superlative reporting; they are written with compassion. As always with Pepys, it is people, not literary effects, that matter."

At no point in the diary's six volumes does this compassion shine through more brightly than when chronicling the Great Plague of 1665. Pepys provides weekly updates of the numbers of victims that the epidemic has claimed in the previous seven days. When the death count begins to subside, suggesting the disease's effects are diminishing, there is palpable relief in his words. When it rises again, his despair stands naked: "Lord! How every body looks," he writes one evening, "and discourse in the street is of death, and nothing else, and few people going up and down,



of what gives the diary its depth and makes it so fascinating. Even at the height of the plague, he recalls his associate Colonel Blunt taking delivery of a “new chariot made with springs”. “So for curiosity I went into it to try it, and up the hill to the heath, and over the cart-ruts and found it pretty well, but not so easy as he pretends.”

## LONDON'S BURNING

No sooner was the plague abating than another cataclysmic event befell London – the Great Fire of 1666. After his housemaid woke him in the night to deliver the news of the fire's outbreak, he initially chose to return to bed. But soon enough, Pepys took to the streets, and the river, for the four long days that the blaze raged. In the process, he produced a detailed, crucial record of the time that London burned orange.

Day by day, he charts the changing directions that the strong winds send the fire, while also detailing the devastation it leaves in its wake. Aside from the infrastructure, though, Pepys again

regards the human element, filling his words with compassion for ordinary Londoners. He grieves to witness “Poor people staying in their houses as long as till the very fire touched them, and then running into boats, or clambering from one pair of stairs by the water-side to another”. There's panic on the streets of London, thoroughfares that are “crowded with people running and riding, and getting of carts at any rate to fetch away things”. Pepys himself sends many of his possessions east to “Bednall-green”; he also reveals that he has buried papers, wine and his precious “Parmazan cheese” in the garden of an associate in an attempt to save them from the flames.

Pepys's skill as a writer is the confluence of close detail with the wider picture. For instance, while he considers the implications of rumours that the fire was started by either French or Dutch terrorists (“that there is a plot in it”), he also reports on the plight of “a poor cat taken out of a hole in a chimney... the hair all burned off the body, and yet alive”. ➤

that the town is like a place distressed and forsaken.”

Alongside his distress for the more unfortunate residents of London, though, come some truly upper-middle-class concerns. On 3 September 1665, Pepys finally puts on a new wig “bought a good while since, but durst not wear, because the plague was in Westminster when I bought it”. He then ruminates as to whether wigs will remain in fashion, “for nobody will dare to buy any haire, for fear of the infection, that it had been cut off the heads of people dead from the plague”. This mixing of the grave and the comparatively frivolous is part

**HOMEWARD BOUND**  
Leaving The Hague for his homeland in May 1660, Pepys finds himself on Charles II's barge, amid a flotilla of ships

**25 May 1660**

**“Infinite the crowd of people and the horsemen, citizens, and noblemen of all sorts... The shouting and joy expressed by all is past imagination”**

SAMUEL PEPYS

Having sailed with Charles II from The Hague, Pepys records the reaction when the new head of the just-restored monarchy arrives back on British soil in Dover

**15 May 1662**

**“I did not see much true joy, but only an indifferent one, in the hearts of the people, who are much discontented at the pride and luxury of the Court, and running in debt”**

SAMUEL PEPYS

The arrival of Charles II's bride in England fails to lift the country's unease with the monarchy's priorities



## COMEBACK KING

Charles II parades through London the day before his coronation, in April 1661

# WITNESSING THE GREAT FIRE OF LONDON

As the city became engulfed in flames, Pepys found himself in the midst of the action – and his record of events survived the inferno...

A few minutes after midnight on Sunday 2 September 1666, a fire broke out at a bakery on Pudding Lane in the city of London. Initially thought to be a minor blaze, that night the flames spread, their passage made easy by strong winds. The flames would rage for the best part of four days, decimating much the city and making hundreds of thousands of Londoners homeless.

Samuel Pepys saw devastation at every angle, with the congested housing, largely made from wood and thatch, to blame for the fire's rapid spread. "The houses," he described, "so very thick thereabouts,

and full of matter for burning, as pitch and tarr... and warehouses of oyle, and wines, and brandy, and other things." After a hot summer – and with a drought reaching back to the previous November – the tinder-dry houses didn't stand a chance.

While the Thames acted as a barrier to homes south of the river (although the houses on London Bridge were affected), the winds fanned the flames northwards and westwards on the Monday, reaching the financial centre of the city, where gold reserves were urgently saved from melting. By Tuesday, the wind had changed direction. Now heading eastwards, Pepys' house was under threat, while St Paul's Cathedral, despite its thick stone walls, had been completely gutted.

The catastrophe only lessened when the winds dropped later that evening, by which time enforced demolitions – to provide much-needed fire-breaks – began to take effect. The fire left a smouldering, unrecognisable city. More than 13,000 houses and 87 churches had been destroyed, though thankfully the loss of life was mercifully low – officially in single figures.

Not only do Pepys' diary entries for these particular days paint a vivid picture of the disaster, they also analyse its fault lines, showing how public opinion placed the blame at the door of Sir Thomas Bloodworth, the Lord Mayor. "People do all the world over cry out of the simplicity of my Lord Mayor in general; and more particularly in this business of the fire, laying it all on him." In the early hours of the fire, Bloodworth had declined to authorise demolitions that would have stymied the fire's progress. "Pish!" he had scoffed. "A woman could piss it out."

## FEARSTORM

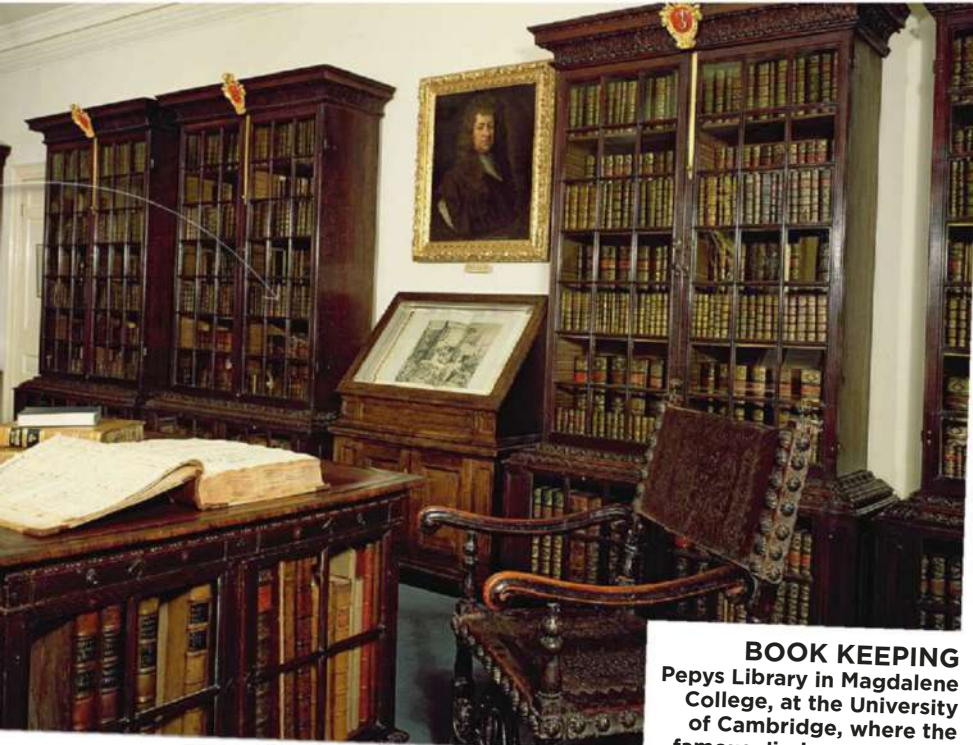
It wasn't just fire that spread through the city in September 1666 – Pepys' record highlights the terror that tore through the streets as well

2 September 1666

"So near the fire as we could for smoke; and all over the Thames, with one's face in the wind, you were almost burned with a shower of firedrops"

SAMUEL PEPYS

Pepys observes and documents the Great Fire of London from the closest of quarters, aboard a boat on the River Thames



**BOOK KEEPING**  
Pepys Library in Magdalene College, at the University of Cambridge, where the famous diaries are housed

Perhaps because he was keeping the diary for his own requirements, Pepys was extremely candid when it came to recording intimate personal information. The reader is informed about both his bowel movements and his wife's menstrual cycles, as well as being entertained by the forensic recollection of the couple's rows. Theirs was a tempestuous relationship, one defined by Pepys's roving eye – he seemed especially focused on actresses of the day. We're told of his affection for one particular entertainer, Mary Knepp, "pretty enough, but the most excellent, mad-humoured thing". He justifies their affair by portraying her horse-trading husband as "an ill, melancholy, jealous-looking fellow". Elsewhere, his revelations about liaisons with his housemaid Deborah Willet used such graphic, bawdy language that they weren't included in publications of the diary right up until 1971.

## END OF A CHAPTER

Elisabeth Pepys died at the age of just 29 in November 1669, six months after her husband's final diary entry. Although he was only 36, Pepys' failing eyesight, and fear of going completely blind, led him to shut the book forever, as he explained in his closing words on 31 May: "I being not able to do it any longer having done now so long as to undo my eyes almost every time that I take a pen in my hand." Rather than dictate his words to an assistant and dilute the potency of his honesty, Pepys drew a line there and then. He was also too busy with his career's rapid ascendancy – his post-diary years saw him appointed as Chief Secretary to the Admiralty, serve as the MP for Castle Rising and Harwich, and be elected

to the presidency of the Royal Society. Failing eyesight or not, there simply wouldn't have been enough hours in the day to continue with his extraordinary chronicle of the Restoration period. As Claire Tomalin has lamented, "it is tantalising to think that a less successful career might have given us more volumes of the Diary".

After Pepys' death in 1703, the six volumes of his diary were shipped, along with 3,000 other similarly leather-bound books, to the library of Magdalene College in Cambridge, although it would be many years before historians would discover its worth. It remains the foremost source text for this particular near-decade. Because of the censorship imposed by Charles II, only a single newspaper – the government journal *The London Gazette* – was published during this period. Pepys' diary tells it like it was.

If it were simply a personal journal, the diary would be a fascinating portrait of a man of both intimate insecurities and grand ambition. But it's much, much more than that. Totalling more than 1 million words, it is an unrivalled, high-definition snapshot of 17th-century London's most challenging decade, a celebration of both the mundane and the mighty. As Tomalin says: "When you turn over the last page of the Diary, you know you have been in the company of both the most ordinary and the most extraordinary writer you will ever meet".

## GET HOOKED

### READ

*Samuel Pepys: the Unequalled Self* by Claire Tomalin (2002)  
*Samuel Pepys: Plague, Fire, Revolution* by Margarette Lincoln (2015)



## EXPERT VIEW

**Margarette Lincoln,**  
*Editor of Samuel Pepys: Plague, Fire, Revolution (2015)*

## "YOU HAVE THE SENSE OF SEEING EVENTS THROUGH HIS EYES"

**As Pepys embarked on his diary, what state was the country in?**

The public was full of hope at the restoration of the monarchy – Cromwell's New Model Army had lost popularity, public trust and authority long ago. The people rejoiced when Charles II finally rode into London as King. According to John Evelyn's account, bells were rung, flowers were strewn on the roads, and fountains flowed with wine. People lined the streets from London to Rochester. Of course, the public mood was tempered pretty quickly as laws were passed tightening the definition of treason (the Sedition Act) and various Protestant sects were penalised when the national state Church was restored. The economy was precarious and worsened considerably during the Second Anglo-Dutch War of 1665-67, which was a humiliation for the country. For instance, there was no money to pay seamen and, when ships returned, the injured disembarked and just lay in the streets.

**What makes the diary so compelling?**

His honesty and extraordinary reporting. Because of his method of composition – from notes written up at most a few days after they were made – you have the sense of seeing events through his eyes. And because he was innately curious, he records the kind of detail that brings scenes alive, from the pigeons scorching their feet in the Great Fire to the entrancing underwear that the King's mistress wore, hung out on a washing line in Whitehall.

**Why do historians still care so much about the diary?**

Pepys was truly a 'Renaissance Man'. He had many interests – music, theatre, politics, women, books, scientific advances, etc. His diary therefore gives insights into many worlds, as well as illuminating naval administration, affairs of court and foreign policy. It's worth remembering that the diary closes at the end of May 1669 and that Pepys left other papers (for instance, his *Tangier Journal*) that illuminate different aspects of his life. He also gives private views about famous contemporaries, which again adds to our understanding of public life.

**What has Pepys taught us about this period?**

He witnessed one of the most turbulent periods this country has ever seen: two revolutions that transformed politics, religion and economics, and also the Great Plague and the Great Fire. Without Pepys' diary, we would still be informed by other personal accounts, but none so vivid. Pepys allows us to see into everyday life and this personal detail adds immediacy, helping us to understand the Stuart period. His description of the Great Fire is unsurpassed.

Each year, some 800,000 letters are sent to Santa Claus at his special Royal Mail address: 'Santa's Grotto, Reindeerland XM4 5HQ'

# The history of Christmas traditions

Ever wondered why we make children dress up as biblical characters once a year? Or when exactly we started giving presents? Wonder no more...

The Smart family watches the first televised Queen's Speech in their London home, 1957



Excited children queue to post their letters to Santa in 1947

## STOCKING FILLER

We know that, by 1823, hanging stockings was common practice, as the act was mentioned in the poem *A Visit From Saint Nicholas* (which starts "Twas the night before Christmas"), but exactly when and why it began remains a mystery. One story goes that Old St Nick, on hearing the plight of a poor family, popped a few gold coins into some socks that were drying by their fire – a miracle others hoped would be repeated.

By 1927, the quarter-mile-long display on Christmas Tree Lane was attracting some 50,000 vehicles.

Christmas Tree Lane was first lit up 95 years ago



## ONE'S CHRISTMAS WISHES

For millions in Britain and the Commonwealth, the Queen's Speech is a key part of Christmas Day. It all started with Elizabeth II's grandfather, George V, who first made an international festive broadcast in 1932, over the radio. Later, his son George VI cemented the tradition with his reassuring seasonal speeches during WWII, before Queen Elizabeth made the messages even more engaging, with the first televised message in 1957.

## THE OFFICE DO

If you think your Christmas party is a rowdy affair, then imagine the scenes when, in 1252, Henry III of England invited 1,000 of his knights and peers around for his first seasonal do. The immense parties thrown by his descendant, Richard II, put Henry's bash to shame though. The last Plantagenet king sent festive invitations to as many as 10,000 guests.



## "3, 2, 1!"

Recently, the Christmas lights switch-on has become a big deal, with D-list celebs, panto stars and local politicians all flocking to the stage for the chance to light up the season. But the oldest-known such ceremony dates back to 1920, when, at the behest of local merchant Frederick Nash, the cedars that line Christmas Tree Lane in Altadena, California, were illuminated for the season.



## DEAR SANTA...

When little girls and boys pick up their pencils and declare how good they've been all year, before subtly segueing into a request for specific toys and games, they are continuing a tradition that dates back to the late-19th century. It's not known exactly when it all began, but the practice had become so popular by the 1890s that the Post Office was overwhelmed with letters addressed to Father Christmas.

## "FIVE GOLD RINGS!"

Until the 20th century (and still to this day in many parts of the world), the full 12 days of Christmas represented one long shindig of religious merriment and gift giving. The period marks the days between 25 December and the Epiphany on 6 January, and it was first decided these dozen days would become celebrated as one spectacular event at the second Council of Tours, in 567 AD.



## DONE UP LIKE A TREE

Queen Victoria and Albert may be famed for dressing up their Christmas evergreens in the 19th century, but it was far from their idea. In ancient times, Pagan mid-winter celebrations saw druids decorate oaks, while the Romans adorned trees with candles and depictions of the god Saturn, for their December Saturnalia festival. The custom developed across physical and religious boundaries, proving especially popular in Germanic countries.



What may well be the first example of 're-gifting' comes from the first-century-AD Roman poet Martial, who teases a stingy friend in a letter: "you sent me all the presents that the five days had brought you!"

## PRESENT AND CORRECT

We have the Ancient Romans to thank for gift giving. They gave presents during several of their religious festivals; the most significant exchange took place on Sigillaria – last day of Saturnalia. The tradition transferred to the Christian festival in the fourth century AD, and grew through the ages – by the 16th century, many were giving gifts for each of the 12 days of Christmas (see left).

## THE FIRST CHRISTMAS

The nativity play has come a long way since its inception in 1223. That first tableau was the creation of future saint, Francis of Assisi, who, having obtained the appropriate permission from the Pope, arranged the re-enactment of Jesus's birth so that the poor and illiterate people of Greccio, Italy, might become more familiar with the holy story. Francis even cast live animals in the production for authenticity.

Children of London's Barrow Hill Road Infants School perform their nativity in 1937



## BEING GOOD (FOR GOODNESS' SAKE)

He's the man who knows who's been naughty and nice, but just how long have children been keen to please Kris Kringle with good behaviour?

Well, by the 12th century, St Nicholas had become one of the Church's most popular characters. While children at this time were likely to receive gifts in the saint's honour if they behaved well, they may also be beaten with a 'correcting rod' in his name had they been up to no good.



St Nicholas is painted with his rod in this 12th-century Italian fresco

HAZARDS  
OF THE JOB  
Hostile Paiute  
warriors chase a  
Pony Express rider

GETTY XI, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS XI



“Look at these five  
front teeth – they were  
knocked out clean...  
**My jaw was fractured  
and I got another arrow  
through my left arm.**”

*Pony Bob describes his injuries to a newspaper after a Paiute attack*

# PONY BOB: RIDER OF THE WILD FRONTIER

**Pat Kinsella** tells the story of 'Pony Bob', the fearless Pony Express rider who galloped across America, facing harsh desert terrain and deadly attacks from native warriors, all in the name of making his deliveries on time...



**H**istory's most famous delivery service, the Pony Express, was in operation for just 18 months, but the extraordinary escapades of its fleet-footed riders became the stuff of Wild West folklore.

The stories around them continued to grow long after the company had bitten the dust.

From 1860-61, the Express transported mail across the continent of North America, between the Atlantic and the Pacific, at breakneck speed using an innovative method and supremely talented and fearless riders. The best known of them was William Cody, whose celebrity status was to be forged in later life, once he became known as the showman Buffalo Bill.

The real hero of the day was Robert 'Pony Bob' Haslam. He completed some of history's toughest horse rides in the service of the Express – galloping gigantic distances across brutal terrain, with era-defining packages in his mail pouch, arrow wounds in his body and Paiute warriors hot on his tail.

## MAXIMUM HORSEPOWER

The brainchild of three businessmen – William Russell, Alexander Majors and William Waddell – the Central Overland California and Pikes Peak Express (aka the Pony Express) was launched on 3 April 1860, based on a promise that its riders could transport letters and parcels between Sacramento in California and St Joseph in Missouri in just ten days. The shortest route was 1,900 miles, and it involved crossing the Great Plains and wending through mountain passes in the Rockies and the Sierra Nevada.

To cover this epic distance, 157 stations were built across the continent, typically ten to 12 miles apart, as this was deemed to be the furthest distance a horse could travel at full speed. Riders would gallop from one station to the next, exchange their steed for a fresh one and set off again. Each man covered a patch 75- to 100-miles long, and they were expected to ride day and night, in all conditions.

The Pony Express was destined to live a short but incredibly colourful life. Expensive to use and ill-fated in its timing, the company was an abject failure as a business and never made a dime for its owners, but it became an iconic symbol of the Wild West, epitomising many values of the era: heroism, horsemanship, endurance, endeavour and adventure.

According to legend, a recruitment advertisement in a California newspaper in 1860, read: "Wanted. Young, skinny, wiry fellows not over 18. Must be expert riders, willing to risk death daily. Orphans preferred."

Whether this ad ever really ran is debatable, but there were very real risks involved with being a Pony Express rider. The service was launched during a period of escalating tension between settlers and the Paiute, a local tribe of Native Americans. The riders – who were little more than boys – constantly ran the gauntlet of being attacked in the line of duty.

## THE MAIN PLAYERS



### ROBERT HASLAM

Affectionately known as 'Pony Bob' after his early exploits as a rider for the Express, British-born Bob epitomised the tenacity and bravery of the young riders employed by the fabled delivery service.



### WILLIAM CODY

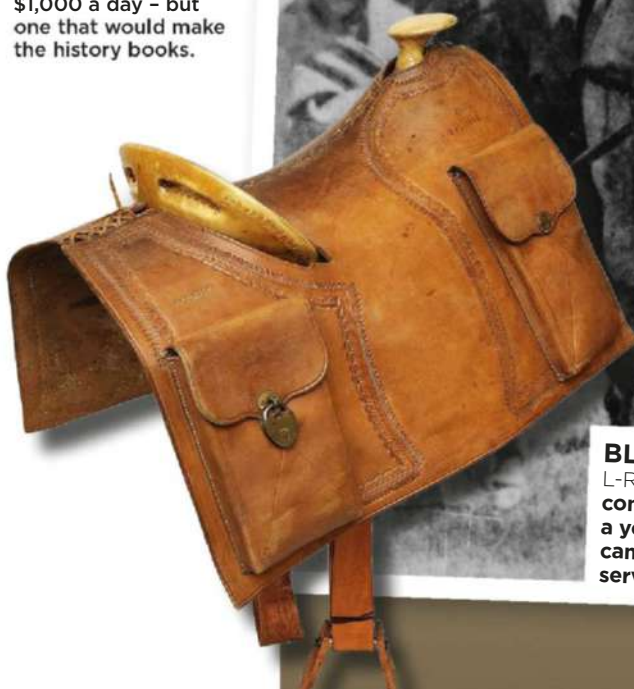
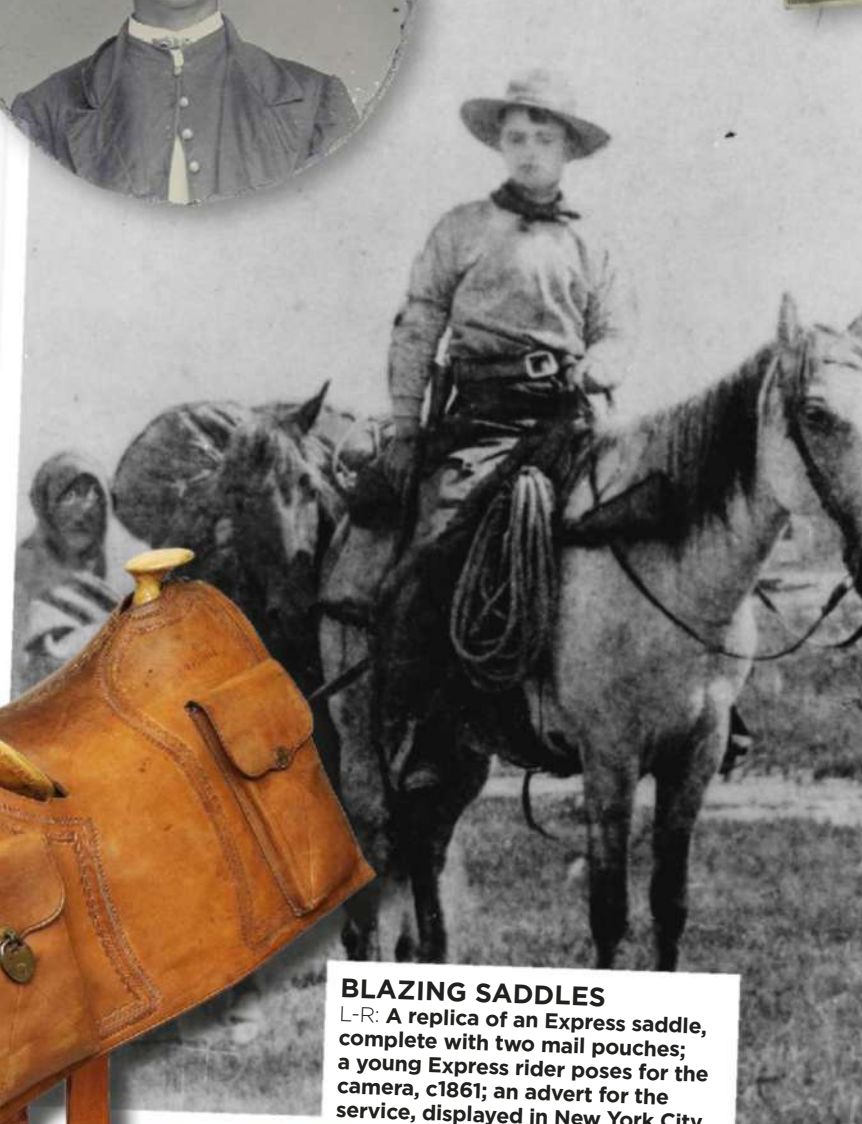
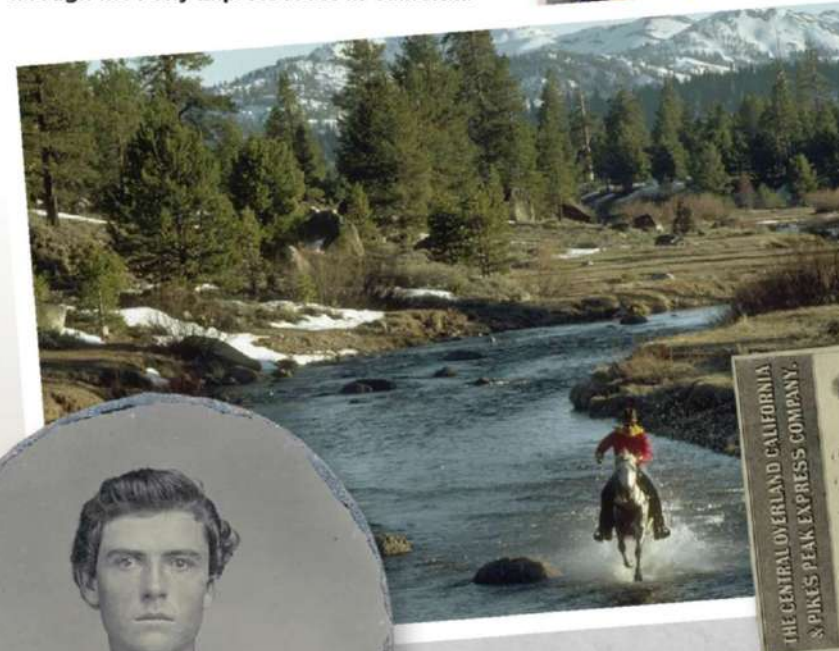
Better known as Buffalo Bill (a nickname born from his hunting prowess) Cody immortalised the Pony Express service by incorporating it into his famous Wild West shows from 1883-1916.

### WILLIAM RUSSELL, ALEXANDER MAJORS and WILLIAM WADDELL

The founders of the Pony Express, a business that was destined to fail – with losses of more than \$1,000 a day – but one that would make the history books.

## HORSEBACK HEROES

**RIGHT:** William Cody, nicknamed Buffalo Bill, stars in a melodrama by novelist Ned Buntline  
**BELOW L-R:** No photos of Pony Bob exist from his time as a rider, but this image of a young Buffalo Bill does; a modern rider canter through the Pony Express route in California



## BLAZING SADDLES

**L-R:** A replica of an Express saddle, complete with two mail pouches; a young Express rider poses for the camera, c1861; an advert for the service, displayed in New York City

# ALLO BILL'S WILD WEST

## CONGRESS OF ROUGH RIDERS OF THE WORLD.



Peacemont, Co. 101  
July 9th 1861  
Seven months after date  
The Central Overland California and Pike's Peak  
Express Company promises to pay to the order of  
\$1000  
One thousand and  
no/100  
The Office of the Company  
1888

**EXPRESS MAIL**  
Two Express-  
delivered notes  
- one bears stamps  
from each station  
it passed through

**\$1**

The cost, per half  
ounce, of sending  
mail via the  
Pony Express

Popular  
belief also  
insists there  
was a strict  
code of  
conduct in the  
company, with  
no swearing,

drinking or gambling tolerated. But,  
despite the danger, discomfort and  
discipline, being chosen as a rider  
for the Pony Express came with  
considerable bragging rights, and the  
pay was very attractive. The boys were  
bagging up to \$100 a month (more than  
triple normal wages), and positions  
were highly sought after.

### LIVING LEGENDS

Some of them quickly became legends  
and, if the stories are to be believed,  
for good reason. The riders all carried  
firearms and were often called into  
action to defend their cargo. According  
to one account by 'Broncho Charlie'  
Miller, who claimed to have worked  
for the Express, one 14-year-old rider,  
Billy Tate, took out seven Paiute before  
succumbing to multiple arrow wounds.

But the speed of their steeds was  
the riders' best defence. Author Mark  
Twain, who spied the blur of a Pony  
Express rider during a journey to  
Nevada in 1861, memorably describes  
"the swift phantom of the desert" in his  
book *Roughing It*.

Later, it was Buffalo Bill who embedded the  
alleged deeds of Pony Express riders into the  
growing mythology surrounding the American  
West. He helped to create and spread the era's  
romantic narrative with his famous Wild West  
show, an extravaganza that starred the likes  
of Annie Oakley and Sitting Bull, and which  
toured the US and even travelled overseas.

All the stories conjure up an evocative image,  
of a lone rider being pursued across the plains  
by tribal warriors, escaping through a hail of  
arrows to heroically deliver his package on time.

The problem for historians is that many  
of the anecdotes have just one source - the  
riders themselves. Layers of embellishment  
and sensationalism were inevitably added to  
some of the tallest tales as they were repeatedly  
recounted by professional raconteurs like Twain  
and Buffalo Bill, and became plot fodder for  
popular Western Dime novels.

But the legend isn't entirely based on sepia-  
tinted nostalgia and fertile imaginations. Even  
the revisionist historian Christopher Corbett -  
who questions whether the 'orphans-preferred'  
ad really existed and also doubts William Cody's  
claims to have been a fully fledged Pony rider -  
gives credence to the stories about the greatest  
rider in the short history of the Express: Robert  
'Pony Bob' Haslam.

In November 1860, when there was still a gap  
in the Pacific Telegraph system across the wilds  
of Nebraska, Haslam is credited with delivering  
the news to California and the rest of the  
West that Abraham Lincoln had been elected  
President - tidings that had a profound effect  
on a country teetering on the edge of civil war.  
Reports claim that the excited rider thundered  
up to the sentries of Bucklands station yelling  
"Lincoln's elected!"

The most famous incident involving Haslam  
has him completing a 120-mile journey in  
8 hours and 20 minutes, carrying Lincoln's  
inaugural address in his pouch, despite having  
been shot in the arm and through the jaw with  
an arrow, losing several teeth. But even this  
wasn't his biggest achievement...


### PLAIN CLASH

Robert Haslam was born in London in 1840,  
and moved to America as a teenager, where he  
found employment on a ranch in Salt Lake City.  
He worked briefly as a government messenger  
before, by the age of 20, becoming a hotshot  
rider for the newly launched Pony Express.

After being hired by the Express in Carson  
City, Haslam helped build several of the  
company's stations before being assigned his  
first run, a 75-mile stretch of barren Nevada  
terrain, between Friday's Station on the state  
line (on the shore of Lake Tahoe) and Bucklands  
Station near Fort Churchill.

Unfortunately, the Pony Express began  
operating at a time when tensions were running  
high between the native Paiute and the settlers in  
the region. The discovery of the Comstock Lode  
- a bonanza of silver ore unearthed on the flanks

# PONY EXPRESS!

CHANGE OF  
TIME!

REDUCED  
RATES!

10 Days to San Francisco!

## LETTERS

WILL BE RECEIVED AT THE

### OFFICE, 84 BROADWAY,

NEW YORK,

Up to 4 P. M. every TUESDAY,

Up to 2½ P. M. every SATURDAY,

Which will be forwarded in connect with the PONY EXPRESS leaving  
ST. JOSEPH, Missouri,

Every WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY at 11 P. M.

## TELEGRAMS

Sent to Fort Kearney on the mornings of MONDAY and FRIDAY, will con-  
nect with PONY leaving St. Joseph, WEDNESDAYS and SATURDAYS.

### EXPRESS CHARGES.

LETTERS weighing half ounce or under..... \$1 00  
For every additional half ounce or fraction of an ounce 1 00  
In all cases to be enclosed in 10 cent Government Stamped Envelopes,  
And all Express CHARGES Pre-paid.

THE PONY EXPRESS ENVELOPES For Sale at our Office.

of Mount Davidson in 1859 – had brought a wave of prospectors flooding in.

By May 1861, violence was crackling in the air and smoke from Paiute signal fires rose up above peaks across the range. Virginia City was in a state of high alert. A part-built stone hotel was converted into a safe house for women and children, and the men readied themselves for an expected attack.

None of this danger was to deter Haslam from carrying out his duties, however. After receiving the eastbound 10 May mail from San Francisco, he began his Express run as usual, starting at Friday's Station (1 on map). He completed the first 60 miles to reach Reed's Station (2) on Carson River without encountering any problems.

He was unable to get a fresh steed, however, because all the horses had been seized by

frightened settlers preparing to defend their properties. All he could do was feed and water his tired mount, and strike out for Bucklands (3), 15 miles further on.

This should have been the end of his run, but he was met by a relief rider who, petrified of being attacked, refused to take the mail. The

station Superintendent, WC Marley, offered Haslam \$50 to continue, and the young man readily accepted.

Armed with a seven-shooter Spencer rifle and a Colt revolver, Haslam hopped onto a fresh horse and set off within ten minutes.

He travelled to the Carson Sink without incident, and continued apace through the desolate land to

Sand Springs, where he again swapped his mount. After one more change of steed at Cold Springs, he finally handed over his satchel to a relief rider called JG Kelley at Smith's Creek (4).

Haslam rested at the station for just nine hours, before he began the long trip back with the westbound mail.

## RETURN TO SENDER

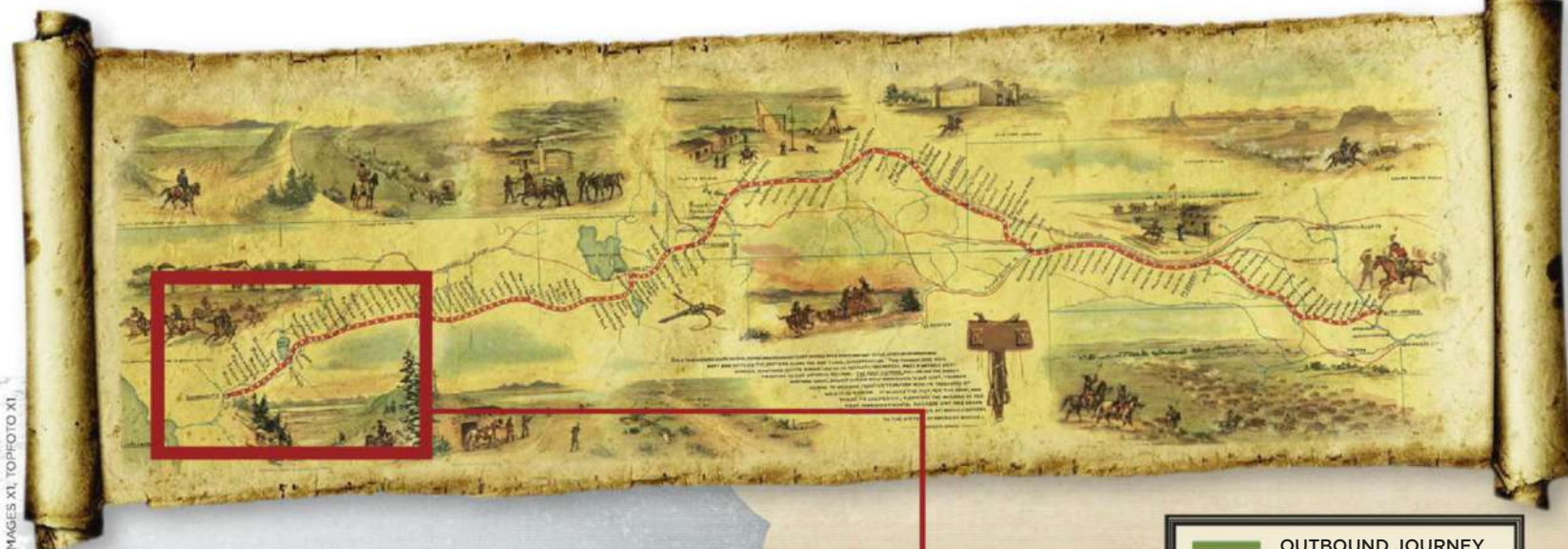
At Cold Springs (5), a horrific scene greeted Haslam. The station had been attacked, the agent was dead and the horses had been driven off. Hastily, he watered and fed his tired mount and urged it on, into the gathering night towards Sand Springs, 30 miles away across prairies potentially full of Paiute warriors.

Haslam kept careful watch on his horse's ears, knowing they'd twitch at the sound of impending attack. Fortunately, the only danger his steed sensed was the presence of wolves – although there's some evidence that he rode right through a circle of Paiute in the dark, without realising.

At Sand Springs (6) he recounted his grisly find at Cold Springs, and convinced the

# 80

The number of riders working for the Pony Express at any one time



## THE WILD, WILD WEST

Even now, Nevada is a desolate region, but in the mid-19th century, it was the epitome of the Wild West. Patrolled by Paiute warriors, the unforgiving desert was punctuated only by a few stingy creeks and the odd ultra-remote settlement. Riders had no back-up here; they relied on their wits and the speed of their horses to get through hostilities. Haslam's standard route also took him through part of the Carson Range, a spur of the Sierra Nevada.

### 1 FRIDAY'S STATION 11 May 1860

By the banks of Lake Tahoe, on the California-Nevada state line, Robert Haslam begins his standard run.

### 2 REED'S STATION

With Paiute attack thought to be imminent, Haslam arrives at this base on the Carson River to discover all the horses have been commandeered by white settlers. He continues on a fatigued steed.

### 3 BUCKLANDS (LATER KNOWN AS FORT CHURCHILL)

Haslam completes his run, only to find that his relief rider is too scared to continue. Haslam is offered \$50 to do a double run, which he accepts, departing immediately on a fresh horse.

### 4 SMITH'S CREEK

After riding another 130 miles through the Carson Sink and the dry and sandy hills between Sand Springs and Cold Springs, Haslam hands over his load over and rests before starting his return leg.

### 5 COLD SPRINGS

Haslam discovers the station, which he had ridden through just hours before, has been attacked. The agent is dead and the horses have scattered. He feeds and waters his horse before riding into the night.

### 6 SAND SPRINGS

Arriving safely, Haslam describes the carnage at Cold Springs and persuades the agent to flee with him to the Carson Sink. Hours later, the Sand Springs station is attacked.

### 7 CARSON SINK

Haslam arrives to find the occupants ready for a fight, as 50 war-painted Paiute have been spotted earlier in the day. The rider rests for an hour, and then rides to Bucklands.

### 8 BUCKLANDS

Arriving just three-and-a-half hours after his scheduled time, Haslam retells his ordeal. His bonus is raised to \$100.

### 9 FRIDAY'S STATION

Around 36 hours after he'd left, Haslam arrives back at his home base, virtually back on schedule, having ridden 380 miles through the Sierra Nevada and across plains crawling with Paiute warriors.





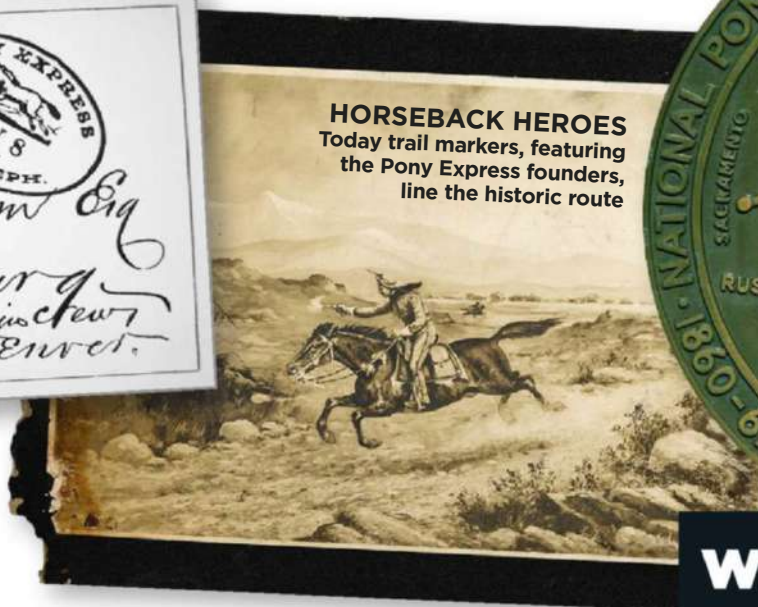
## SPREAD THE NEWS

RIGHT: Pony Bob tears through hostile terrain carrying the note above, which holds the news that Lincoln had become President

agent to ride with him to the Carson Sink. It was a shrewd decision – the following day Sand Springs was attacked.

At the Carson Sink (7), they were met by 15 armed men, anticipating an assault having earlier seen 50 Paiute, armed and wearing warpaint. Haslam rested for an hour, then rode the last stretch to Bucklands (8), arriving just three-and-a-half hours behind schedule, before heading home to Friday's Station (9).

Haslam had completed a 380-mile round trip in 36 hours – the high-water mark in the history of the Pony Express, and one of the longest horseback journeys ever made. When Marley heard about the Cold Springs killings, he doubled his heroic rider's bonus on the spot – one of the hardest-earned \$100 in history. 📍



## WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

Already a commercial failure, the outbreak of the Civil War and the completion of the transcontinental telegraph line spelled the end for the Pony Express, which closed in October 1861. Haslam took a job with Wells, Fargo & Company as a rider between San Francisco and Virginia City. Later, he scouted for the US Army, served as a Deputy Marshal in Salt Lake City, and even accompanied Buffalo Bill on a diplomatic mission to negotiate the surrender of Native American Chief Sitting Bull in December 1890. Despite his illustrious life, however, he spent his final years working in a Chicago hotel, and died poor in 1912.

## GET HOOKED

### READ

*Orphans Preferred: the Twisted Truth and Lasting Legend of the Pony Express* – by Christopher Corbett

### VISIT

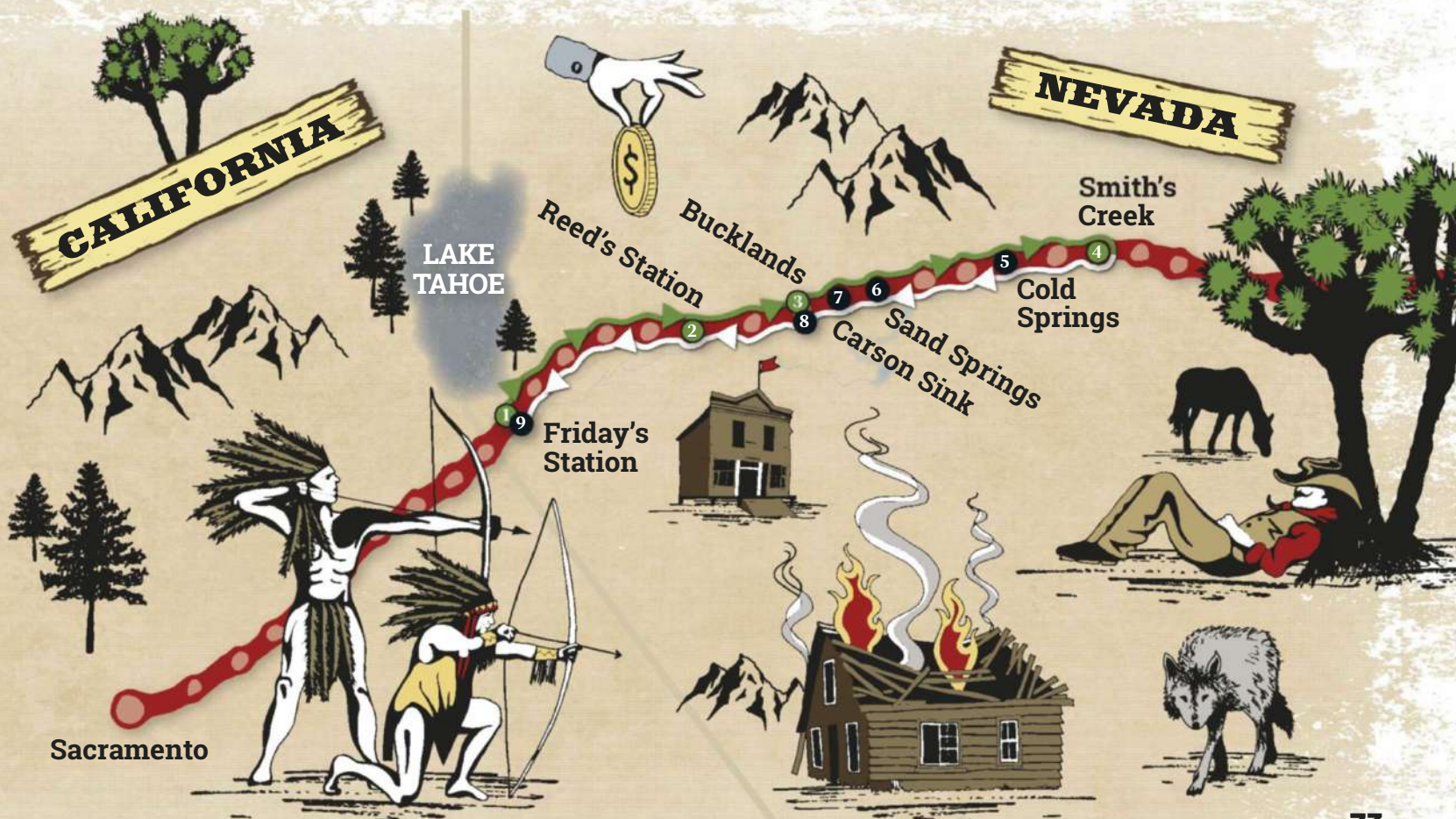
A section of the US50, known as 'the Loneliest Highway in America' traces the route of the Pony Express covered by Robert Haslam, taking in Fort Churchill (formerly Bucklands) and the preserved stations of Sand Springs and Cold Springs.



## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Whose remarkable journey should we feature in our next Great Adventure?

Email: [editor@historyrevealed.com](mailto:editor@historyrevealed.com)





## BATTLEFIELD NASEBY, 14 JUNE 1645

**ACTION PLAN**  
A 1647 record of  
the battle at Naseby

### ROYALIST ATTACK

The Royalist cavalry defeat  
their opponents, but  
then ride on to attack the  
Parliamentarian baggage park.

THE DESCRIPTION OF THE ARMIES OF HORSE  
S<sup>r</sup> Thomas Fairfax his Excellency, as they were drawn in  
the Fowerteenth

# The turning point of the civil war

Before the **Battle of Naseby** the outcome of the First Civil War in Britain hung in the balance. After it, Parliamentary victory was only a matter of time. **Julian Humphrys** looks at this pivotal moment...

On a foggy morning in June 1645, two armies faced each other across open fields, just north of the Northamptonshire village of Naseby. Although no one knew it then, in just a few hours the fate of a nation would be set.

The British Civil Wars had been raging across England, Scotland and Ireland for nearly three years but, until a few months before Naseby, neither the Royalists nor the Parliamentarians looked like

AND FOOT OF HIS MAJESTIES, AND  
verall bodyes, at the Battayle at NASEBY  
of June 1645



## BATTLE CONTEXT

### Who

#### Royalists

Commanded by Charles I and Prince Rupert: 4,300 foot, 5,500 horse

#### Parliamentarians

Led by Thomas Fairfax and Oliver Cromwell: 6,400 foot, 7,200 horse, 1,000 dragoons

### When

14 June 1645

### Where

Naseby, Northamptonshire

### Outcome

Decisive Parliament victory

### Losses

#### Royalists

c1,000 killed, 4,000 captured

#### Parliamentarians

c450 killed and wounded

### LINES OF BATTLE

The Royalist infantry (top) push back the Roundheads (bottom) but their advance is eventually held.

### CROMWELL VICTORIOUS

Cromwell's cavalry drive off their opponents then swing left to attack the Royalist foot in the flank.

300

The number of wagons and carriages captured by the Parliamentarians after Naseby

winning it. In 1644, the Royalists had lost large tracts of land in North England, but attempts by the Parliamentarians to destroy their main field army, which was based at Oxford, had come to nothing.

In a bid to break the stalemate, Parliament created a new national force, the New Model Army. Commanded by Sir Thomas Fairfax, made up of regiments from Parliament's other armies, and reinforced by raw recruits and former Royalist prisoners of war, it was well organised and well equipped but untried and untested.

That test would come at Naseby...

## ON CAMPAIGN

When the campaigning season began in 1645, King Charles I decided to march north in a bid to recover some of the territory lost there the year before. But, before leaving, he sent a substantial detachment of men, including 3,000 cavalry, to bolster their forces in the West Country and help with the siege of Parliamentarian Taunton. The move would dangerously weaken his army.

Meanwhile, Fairfax began to lay siege to Oxford, the Royalist capital. Concerned that Oxford would not withstand a lengthy siege, Charles hatched a plan to distract the Parliamentarians. At the end of May, his army stormed and sacked Parliamentarian Leicester. His plan worked. Alarmed by the loss of Leicester, Parliament abandoned the Siege of Oxford and moved to bring the King's main army to battle.

After a week's marching, the two armies finally made contact

with each other. On 12 June, some of Fairfax's cavalry clashed with Royalists near Daventry and then, late on 13 June, Henry Ireton (Oliver Cromwell's future son-in-law) surprised a Royalist outpost while they were playing quoits in the village of Naseby. The presence of the Parliamentarians so near to his main force left Charles, who was still without the men he had sent to the West Country, in a quandary. He could either risk battle against a much larger force, or attempt to retreat with the risk that Fairfax might catch up and

## WHO'S WHO?

Cavalry often wore sashes to identify themselves: the Parliamentarians tawny orange, the Royalists red



## WAR WINNERS

### THE NEW MODEL ARMY

By the end of 1644, Parliament had the military upper hand, but, for various reasons, it hadn't been able to land a knockout blow against the Royalists. Because they'd been raised to fight in specific parts of the country, Parliament's armies were reluctant to travel far; their Commanders frequently failed to co-operate and some held their positions as a result of social standing rather than military ability.

To rectify these problems, Parliament established the New Model Army, a force liable for service in any part of the country. To cut down on political infighting and enable the appointment of

officers who knew what they were doing, the House of Commons passed a bill obliging MPs and members of the House of Lords to resign their commands. A few MPs were allowed to stay on, notably Oliver Cromwell. The new army took to the field in 1645 under the command of Sir Thomas Fairfax, with Cromwell as its General of Horse.

### FIGHTING MEN

Civil Wars soldiers were of three main types: horse (cavalry), dragoons and foot (Infantry). Cavalry fought with swords, pistols and short muskets, dragoons rode into battle before dismounting to shoot, while the infantry either carried muskets or pikes. The muskets of the time were, by our standards, slow and inaccurate, so pikemen would protect the musketeers and also provide muscle in hand-to-hand combat.

In battle, it was customary for the infantry to form up in the centre, with cavalry on either flank. Cavalry were supposed to drive off the enemy horsemen in front of them and then turn in to attack the opposing infantry. This was easier said than done. It's hard to rally cavalry who had launched a charge and a wise commander would keep some of his horsemen in reserve.

> attack him as his army was strung out. Thinking that retreat would damage morale and that the experience of his soldiers would make up for their lack of numbers, Charles ignored the advice of his nephew, Prince Rupert, and opted for battle.

### VALLEY OF DEATH

The two armies deployed on the opposite sides of a shallow valley known as Broadmoor. Its sides were flanked by thick parish-boundary hedges.

Both Commanders used a standard formation, deploying their infantry in the centre with cavalry on the wings, although the Royalists interspersed their mounted men with musketeers and kept a brigade in reserve.

The Parliamentarians made smart use of the terrain, placing some of their red-coated infantry behind the crest of a ridge, where they couldn't be seen. Sometime between 9am and 10am, Oliver Cromwell, who had only recently taken command of the Parliamentarian cavalry, ordered

Colonel John Okey to take his regiment of dragoons forward and, using the hedge there as cover, harass Prince Rupert's cavalry on the right flank of the Royalist army. Okey obeyed and, protected from attack by the thick hedge, his men dismounted. While some men held the regiment's horses, the rest opened fire over the hedge. Peppered by musket balls and unable to get at their tormentors, the Royalist cavalry took the only course open to them - they rode off to attack the Parliamentarian cavalry on the far side of the valley.

The opposing wings of horsemen paused briefly to dress ranks before charging each other, firing their pistols at close range and then setting to with their swords. Ireton was in command of the Parliamentarians, and his regiment initially drove back their Royalist opponents. But, when the Royalist second line entered the fray, most of the Parliamentarian horsemen turned and fled, hotly pursued by the triumphant Royalists. Some chased

450

The number of Royalist officers that were captured at Naseby

## KEY PLAYERS

Naseby was one of the few battles at which Charles I and the future leader of the land, Oliver Cromwell, went head-to-head...



### KING CHARLES I

Though he had no military experience Charles commanded the Royalist army. His most notable success was the defeat of a large Parliamentarian army in Cornwall, in autumn 1644.



### PRINCE RUPERT

The nephew of Charles I led the Royalist army. He's popularly seen as the archetypal headstrong dashing cavalier but was, in fact, a hard-nosed, competent soldier.



### SIR THOMAS FAIRFAX

The Captain General of Parliament's New Model Army, Fairfax was a Yorkshire gentleman who had won a series of victories in the previous 18 months.



### OLIVER CROMWELL

Cromwell was appointed Commander of Parliament's cavalry at Naseby on Fairfax's request, even though he should have been debarred (see War Winners, above).

BATTLEFIELD  
NASEBY,  
14 JUNE 1645

# ARMED AND DANGEROUS

When war had broken out, it was Parliament who controlled the country's key arsenals. Many soldiers brought along weapons and armour of their own, so there was a wide variety in the equipment used.

## ARMOUR

While all cavalymen, in both armies, were meant to wear an iron breastplate, backplate and helmet, not everyone actually received one.

## BANDOLIER

Each wooden tube that hangs from this cross-body belt contains enough gunpowder to fire a single shot.

## MATCHLOCK

When a musketeer pulled the trigger, a piece of smouldering cord (the 'match') would ignite the powder in the gun.

## WHEELLOCK PISTOL

A weapon used by cavalymen. When the trigger was pulled, a metal wheel spun round against some iron pyrite, causing sparks that ignited the powder in the pistol.

## SEEING RED

The foot soldiers in the New Model Army were given **red coats**, largely because at the time red cloth was **cheap and readily available**.

"Charles ignored the advice of his nephew, and opted for battle"



their defeated enemies for miles, while others galloped off in an unsuccessful bid to attack the Parliamentary baggage train, which they found some distance to the rear of Fairfax's army.

It may have been first blood to the Royalist right wing, but all of its cavalry had been committed to the fight, and none remained to follow up their success by attacking the Parliamentary infantry. In fact, by the time Rupert's horsemen eventually returned from their pursuit, the battle was all but lost.

Back on the field, the foot regiments of the two armies had come together. Despite the odds stacked against them, the Royalist infantry initially gained the upper

back in disorder. Philip Skippon, the New Model Army's veteran commander, was wounded in the ribs by a musket ball, but stayed on the field to encourage his hard-pressed infantry.

### A NUMBERS GAME

Eventually, the numbers began to tell. Fairfax was able to order forward his reserves and the Royalist advance stalled.

The outnumbered Royalist infantry soon found itself under severe pressure, and things were about to get worse.

Oliver Cromwell's horsemen had driven back Marmaduke Langdale's Royalist cavalry and were now threatening their rear. With

**3**

The approximate duration of the battle, in hours

## "The Royalists were on them, wading in with swords and muskets"

hand. The Parliamentarians had positioned guns between their regiments, but their salvoes went high and their musketeers probably only managed one volley before the Royalists were on them, wading in with swords and the butt ends of their muskets. Edward Walker, King Charles's secretary, later recalled seeing the Parliamentary colours fall to the ground as their first line was driven

a considerable advantage in numbers, Cromwell did not need to commit all his horsemen to the fighting, so he sent part of his force to pursue Langdale's men, while using the rest against the flank and rear of the Royalist infantry.

To add to the woes of the Royalist infantry, Okey's dragoons had now mounted up and joined the fight, charging into their right flank.

## LOST REPUTATION

Charles didn't just lose his army at Naseby – he also lost his correspondence. The capture of the King's personal letters provided the Parliamentarians with a propaganda opportunity that they were quick to exploit. Letters from his Queen showed that she had been trying to obtain reinforcements on his behalf from the Catholic powers in Europe. When Parliament made this known, attitudes towards the King on the part of many of his Protestant subjects hardened, and with it came an increased determination to fight the war to a finish.



**TROUBLESOME QUEEN**  
Charles I and his Catholic wife, Henrietta Maria of France

The game was clearly up. Some Royalist infantrymen began to carry out a fighting retreat, though many surrendered. As those Royalists that could fell back, they were covered by Prince Rupert's blue-coated infantry. One onlooker described them as standing "like a wall of brasse". They held their ground until Fairfax launched an attack from all sides with infantry and cavalry. (The discovery of a large number of musket balls has pinpointed the location of the bluecoats' last stand, and a memorial now marks the spot.)

It is said that, at some stage, King Charles attempted to lead a counter-attack with his lifeguard, but was prevented from doing so

by a Scottish courtier who seized the bridle of his horse, as he asked: "Would you go upon your death?" before leading him away.

The Royalists continued to retreat north, occasionally halting to fight off their pursuers. Many are believed to have been cut down when cornered at Marston Trussell village, after taking a wrong turn.

Not all the casualties were male. Claiming they were Irish whores, Parliamentary troops killed or mutilated between 100 and 200 women they found with the Royalist baggage train. In fact, they were probably Welsh-speaking wives of some of Charles's soldiers.

The Royalist army had been destroyed. A thousand of its soldiers had died and more than 4,000 had been captured. Parliament's ultimate victory was now just a matter of time. ☉

## WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

Naseby was the first Royalist defeat of many...

Naseby was the decisive battle of the First Civil War. The King was never able to replace the experienced soldiers he lost there. In the following month, at Langport in Somerset, the New Model Army routed the last significant Royalist army.

After that, the remaining Royalist garrisons fell like ninepins. In May 1646, King Charles surrendered to Parliament's Scottish allies at Newark. Although he carried

out negotiations with his former enemies, he later struck a secret deal with the Scots. In 1648, they invaded England on his behalf only to be defeated by the New Model Army.

The New Model Army and its supporters in Parliament were determined that Charles should be held to account for his actions; in January 1649 he was put on trial for treason.



**DEATH OF A KING**  
Charles I lost his head on a chilly January morning in 1649

Found guilty, the King was executed on 27 January and the monarchy abolished. For the next 11 years, England would be a republic.

## GET HOOKED

Find out more about the battle and those involved

### VISIT

Naseby is a particularly rewarding battlefield to visit. There's little doubt over what happened and where, and there are a number of excellent viewpoints, each with an information panel. For more details visit [www.naseby.com](http://www.naseby.com)



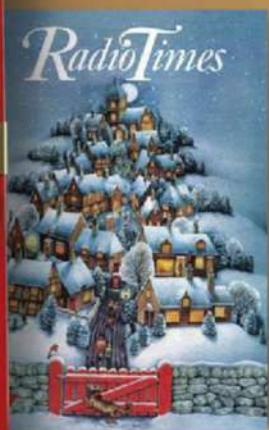
**WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

Was Naseby the most important battle in the British Civil Wars?

Email: [editor@historyrevealed.com](mailto:editor@historyrevealed.com)

IT WOULDN'T BE  
*Christmas*  
WITHOUT  
**RadioTimes**

ON SALE 9 DECEMBER





## The Royal Naval Benevolent Trust

Supporting The RNBT Family



Men and women of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines serve their country, often at times of danger. Established in 1922, the RNBT helps non-commissioned Sailors, Marines and their families (The RNBT Family) throughout their lives.

Your donation will help us to help them.

The Royal Naval Benevolent Trust, Castaway House,  
311 Twyford Avenue, PORTSMOUTH, Hampshire, PO2 8RN  
T: 02392 690112 F: 02392 660852  
E: [rnbt@rmbt.org.uk](mailto:rnbt@rmbt.org.uk) [www.rnbt.org.uk](http://www.rnbt.org.uk)



# NATIONAL COAL MINING MUSEUM

FOR ENGLAND

## Wrap up for a world of adventure this season!

Grab your hard hat and discover the hidden depths of coal mining - 140m underground! Awaken your senses as we celebrate 200 years of the Flame Safety Lamp and finish off with a delicious hot snack in our cafe.

**FREE**  
admission and parking for everyone



Caphouse Colliery,  
Wakefield, WF4 4RH  
T: 01924 848806  
E: [info@ncm.org.uk](mailto:info@ncm.org.uk)

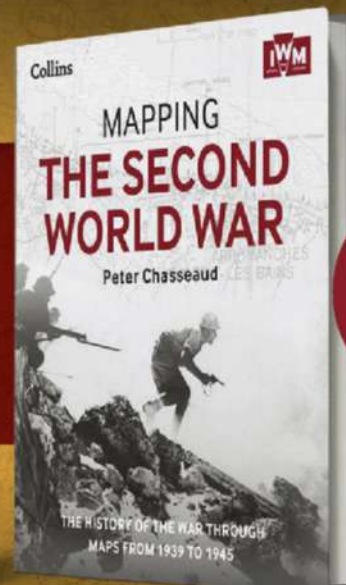
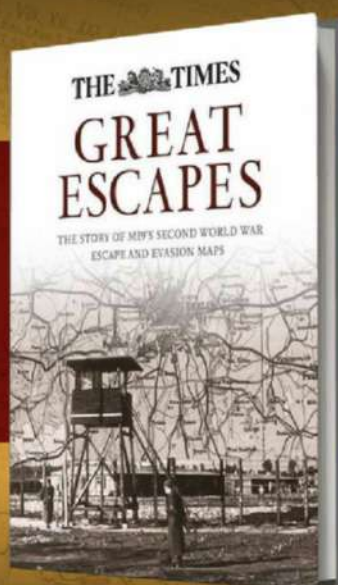
Company Reg No: 1702426  
Charity Reg No: 517325



[www.ncm.org.uk](http://www.ncm.org.uk)



## Delve into the secret world of the maps that changed history

Discover the rarely published maps that led Britain to victory and the incredible story of MI9's escape map programme, brought to life with previously unpublished archive material.



Enjoy  
30% off  
& Free  
P+P\*

Visit [harpercollins.co.uk](http://harpercollins.co.uk) and enter code HR30

**Collins** |  collinsmaps |  collinsmaps

\*Offer valid until 31/12/15

# Q&A

## YOU ASK, WE ANSWER

**IN A NUTSHELL** p83 • **HOW DID THEY DO THAT?** p84  
• **WHY DO WE SAY...** p86 • **WHAT IS IT?** p87

### OUR EXPERTS

#### EMILY BRAND

Social historian, genealogist and author of *Mr Darcy's Guide to Courtship* (2013)



#### GREG JENNER

Consultant for BBC's *Horrible Histories* series and author of *A Million Years in a Day* (2015)



#### SANDRA LAWRENCE

Writer and columnist, with a specialist interest in British heritage subjects



#### MILES RUSSELL

Author and senior lecturer in prehistoric and Roman archaeology at Bournemouth University



### NOW SEND US YOUR QUESTIONS

Vexed by the Victorians? Muddled by the Middle Ages? Whatever your historical question, our expert panel has the answer.



@Historyrevmag  
#askhistrevmag



www.facebook.com/  
HistoryRevealed



editor@history  
revealed.com

**SLAY BELLS**  
With his soldiers killing thousands of people, William the Conqueror didn't really get into the festive spirit

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
**A CALMING CUPPA**  
The Boston Tea Party of 1773 has to be one of history's tidiest rebellions. After boarding the ships and emptying tea chests over the side (carefully avoiding any other damage), the protesters swept up before disappearing into the night.


## HOW DID WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR MARK CHRISTMAS?

Believing he had been appointed by God, William the Conqueror celebrated the Nativity through feasting and prayer – though it's fair to say that his behaviour did not fit with the modern ideals of 'peace on Earth and goodwill to all'. As William was being crowned at Westminster

Abbey on Christmas Day 1066, his soldiers (through misunderstanding or just plain ignorance) thought that the cheering crowd was threatening the new King, so they attacked. They went on to loot and set fire to a number of properties.

During Christmas three years later, William was in York overseeing his army as they engaged in the systematic destruction of crops, farms and villages, as well as the slaughter of thousands of men, women and children. The campaign became known as the 'Harrying of the North'. On balance, William was one Christmas guest you could well do without. **MR**

# WHO FIRST ATTEMPTED TO REGULATE MEDICINE?

 Medicine in the Bronze Age may have been infused with superstition – the gods played a key part, as they did in other periods before and since – but professional doctors were expected to maintain high standards of care.

According to one of the world's first codes of law, issued by King Hammurabi of Babylon around 3,800 years ago, doctors were punished if their treatments caused harm. Depending on the severity of the malpractice, a surgeon could lose his fingers or hands; he might also be branded, executed or, more commonly, made to pay compensation. Moreover, the laws stipulated a standardised sliding scale of prices for operations: the rich paid more, while free treatment for the poor was provided by the state. GJ

**SET IN STONE**  
The 282 laws of the Code of Hammurabi affected all areas of life



## DID YOU KNOW?

### TEETH WEE-TENING

Believing that it had effective cleansing properties, Ancient Romans would mix urine with goats' milk in a concoction they used to try to whiten their teeth.

**STAMP OF APPROVAL**  
Could this 1898 design be the first Christmas stamp?



# When was the first Christmas stamp issued?

 The debate over the first seasonal stamp continues to rage. There was the decidedly un-festive map of the world marked 'Xmas 1898', created by the Canadian postal service, but it was not a special Christmas issue. In 1903, meanwhile, Danish postal clerk Einar Holbøll came up with the idea of a charity Christmas 'seal', though it wasn't technically a stamp,

just a nice extra. It wasn't until 1937 that official greetings stamps were produced in Austria – yet some philatelists don't even count these because they didn't have religious themes, instead depicting a rose and the zodiac. For many purists, Hungary's 1943 stamps showing the Nativity are the winners of the title.

Britain got on board relatively late. Its first Christmas-themed postage stamp wasn't printed until 1966, the brainchild of the Postmaster General – one Tony Benn. SL

# 8 million

The average amount of gin, in gallons, drunk each year in England during the 18th-century 'gin craze'. The Gin Act of 1751 may have helped cut intake to 2 million gallons per year.




# SANTA CLAUS HAS THE RIGHT IDEA. VISIT PEOPLE ONLY ONCE A YEAR

VICTOR BORGE (1909-2000)

Having learned to play the piano from the age of three, musical wunderkind Victor Borge (born Børge Rosenbaum) seemed on track to be a great classical pianist – but he was more interested in making people laugh. Blending keyboard and comedy, he enjoyed worldwide fame as the 'Clown Prince of Denmark'.



# WHERE DOES THE IDEA OF THE HORNED VIKING HELMET COME FROM?

 No evidence of a horned helmet has been found in Viking archaeology, yet it remains the stereotypical motif of Norse warriors. It seems to have sprung from the fertile imagination of 19th-century writers, poets and artists such as Carl Emil Doepler, who created an impressive set of winged and horned headgear for Richard Wagner's opera *Der Ring des Nibelungen* in 1876. Such helmets would have offered little protection, and would have proved impractical on the battlefield. MR

## IN A NUTSHELL

# THE SPANISH INQUISITION

The brutal period of religious persecution, torture and burnings at the stake raged in Spain and beyond for over 350 years



**REIGNS IN SPAIN**  
The marriage of Ferdinand and Isabella united Spain – and led to the Inquisition



### Who started the Spanish Inquisition?

The Tribunal of the Holy Office of the Inquisition, or the Spanish Inquisition, was established in 1478 under the reign of Ferdinand II of Aragon and his wife Isabella I of Castile. The Catholic monarchs aimed to unite their country under one religion.

### Was it the only one?

The Spanish Inquisition may be the most widely known, but others had operated since the 12th century, intended to combat heresy. The Medieval Inquisition, for example, was instituted by the Roman Catholic Church to suppress beliefs such as Catharism. During the 14th century these inquisitions expanded to European countries including Spain, where the tribunal was controlled by the crown, not by the church.

### Who did the Spanish Inquisition target?

It was originally intended to ensure that those who had converted to Catholicism from Judaism or Islam were acting in line with orthodox beliefs. This regulation intensified after

two royal decrees were issued (in 1492 and 1501) ordering Jews and Muslims to choose between baptism and exile.

In the wake of the first decree, more than 160,000 Jews were expelled from Spain. Any suspected heretic was investigated, even those who had converted to Christianity. The *Moriscos* (former Spanish Muslims who had accepted baptism) faced persecution, as did followers of humanist scholar Desiderius Erasmus.

### How was the Inquisition run?

The Inquisitor General presided over the six members of the Council of the Suprema. They met every morning and for an additional two hours on three afternoons a week. Morning sessions addressed faith-related heresies, while afternoons were dedicated to minor heresies such as sexual offences and bigamy.

Fourteen tribunals in Spain fed into the Suprema. These were initially set up in areas where they were deemed necessary, but were later established in fixed locations. Two inquisitors and a prosecutor sat in

each tribunal, with one inquisitor, the *alguacil*, being responsible for detaining, jailing and physically torturing defendants.

### What happened during an Inquisition?

The arrival of the Inquisition must have been truly terrifying. At first congregations were encouraged to come voluntarily before a tribunal where they could confess their heresies, for which they would usually receive lighter punishments. But they were then cajoled or threatened to force them to inform on families, friends and neighbours.

Once someone was accused and the charge of heresy had been established, they would be imprisoned and their property confiscated to cover expenses; the imprisonment could last months or even years. When a case finally came before a tribunal, the process consisted of a series of hearings during which both denouncer and defendant gave their version of events.

### Were people really tortured?

Yes, but historians are still divided as to how widespread and brutal it would have been. Torture seems to have been used to extract confessions, rather than as a punishment in itself, but there was little distinction in the treatment of the accused. Women, children, the infirm and the aged were not exempt.

One popular torture method was the rack, on which victims would be stretched. Another involved suspending a defendant by the wrists. An accused might also have a wet cloth rammed into their mouth, forcing them to ingest water so they felt as if they were drowning.

Punishments ranged from wearing a penitential garment (in some cases, for the rest of the convicted person's life) to acts of penance, lashings or, in the case of unrepentant or relapsed heretics, burning at the stake.

### How many people died?

Again, this is hotly debated; estimates range from 30,000 to as many as 300,000. There are some, however, who believe that the horrors of the Inquisition have been exaggerated, and that just one per cent of the 125,000 people believed to have been tried were executed.

### When did the Inquisition end?

Napoleon's elder brother Joseph Bonaparte, King of Naples and Sicily (1806-08) and King of Spain (1808-13), is the man credited with ending the Spanish Inquisition, though it wouldn't be officially abolished by royal decree until July 1834.

### GOTTA HAVE FAITH

The public acts of punishment were called *auto-da-fé*, or an 'act of faith'



**RACK AND RUIN**  
Torture was used, but not as much as generally believed

## HOW DID THEY DO THAT?

# TOWER BRIDGE

An engineering marvel and London landmark that offers stunning views – if you brave the heights of the glass walkways



During the reign of Victoria era London quickly grew into the world's mightiest metropolis, with trade and commerce rising at an exponential rate. To deal with increased business in the city, it was decided that another bridge across the Thames was required; however, a street-level crossing was out of the question because it would block ships from sailing into London's ports. The design of the new bridge would have to be much more creative and technologically ambitious...

### BLENDING IN

Just before building started, renowned engineer George Stevenson took over the project and gave it a more Victorian Gothic aesthetic. He hoped this would complement the nearby Tower of London.



### CLOSING THE GAP

Construction on Tower Bridge began in 1886, following a public competition to find a design – the winner was Sir Horace Jones (who was one of the judges). It took eight years, five major contractors and 432 workers to complete.

### WALK AT ALTITUDE

So that people could still cross while the bridge was raised, walkways were built spanning the two towers at a height of 42 metres.

### STEAMING SEE-SAW

Tower Bridge is a double-leafed bascule bridge, meaning that it has two raising sections. Once opened in 1894, the bridge's bascules (from the French for 'see-saw') were powered by steam, and the energy was stored in six huge accumulators so there was no lag time before the bridge could be raised.

### FEET IN THE WATER

For the bridge's foundations, two massive piers were sunk into the bed of the Thames. In total, they weigh around 70,000 tons (more than 5,500 double-decker buses).





#### DON'T LOOK DOWN

Today, the footbridges are popular among tourists, especially since glass walkways were installed in 2014. In the early years, however, the pedestrian crossings were used less and in 1910, they were closed altogether as they became haunts for pickpockets and prostitutes.

#### UP AND DOWN

Although used far less often today, the bridge is raised around 850 times each year. Each section can reach an inclination of 86 degrees.

#### DAREDEVIL DEED

In 1952, the bridge began to raise while a number 78 bus was still crossing. The driver, Albert Gunton, accelerated and jumped the vehicle from one bascule to the other.

#### RED MEANS STOP

Originally, guards on either side of the 243-metre-long bridge would signal each other using red semaphore signals, or lights at night. If the weather was foggy, they sometimes also used a gong.

#### FACE LIFT

To mark Queen Elizabeth II's Silver Jubilee in 1977, the bridge was painted in the patriotic colours of red, white and blue. It still has that colour scheme today.

## WHY DO WE SAY...

### DUTCH COURAGE

There's no mystery as to why a stiff drink can instil courage, but the 'Dutch' bit is less clear. It could come from when England and the Netherlands were at war; the English might want to undermine their enemies by claiming they needed to be drunk to face battle. Or it could refer to a specific kind of booze, Jenever (known as Dutch gin), well-loved for warming the body and calming the nerves.

### DID THE ANGLES, SAXONS AND JUTES SPEAK THE SAME LANGUAGE?

English is, at its roots, a Germanic language, and the colonising tribes that migrated from north-west Europe to Britain from around the fifth century AD all spoke a version of 'Old English' – which would be incomprehensible to us today. This became dominant after the withdrawal of the Romans, and replaced pre-existing languages in areas where new English-speaking migrants took control. It is, however, likely that there was considerable variation in accent, dialect and forms of expression between the tribes. Such variation appears to have dwindled following the unification of England by the kings of Wessex in the later ninth century, but crucial elements of dialect may well survive in the regional accents of today. MR

# 194.3

The height, in centimetres, of Edward IV – England's tallest monarch to date. That's over 6'4".

## How much did Elizabeth I spend on her dresses?

It's nearly impossible to translate the amounts spent on Elizabethan clothing into modern money, because it represented so much of a person's overall income than today. Fabrics were prohibitively expensive and, in many cases, prohibited full-stop – there were strict rules dictating which fabrics, and even colours, could be worn by whom.

Though she owned a lot of clothes, Elizabeth often didn't spend anything at all. Instead, her subjects would present her with gloves, sleeves, ruffs, jewels and bolts of costly fabric. Especially at New Year, her courtiers would vie for attention with heavily codified gifts. One year, after receiving silk stockings, Elizabeth upped the ante, declaring that she liked them so much she'd never again wear cloth stockings.

An inventory of Elizabeth's royal wardrobe from 1600 lists some

2,000 gowns, featuring imported silks, furs and damasks, decorated with precious jewels and gold and silver thread. SL

£

### DRESSED TO BILL

It was common for Elizabeth to pay her ladies-in-waiting with her wardrobe rather than her wallet

### WHAT WAS CHRISTMAS LIKE IN A VICTORIAN PRISON?

In the 19th century, as today, Christmas was generally considered a time of compassion. Though prisons could be brutal, many continued the Georgian tradition of serving roast beef to inmates on Christmas Day, often thanks to the generosity of some local benefactor. Regional newspapers would also commonly mention the lifting of the usual ban on singing so that prisoners could form a choir and serenade the guards with Christian hymns. Sadly, the good cheer was fleeting and institutional violence soon returned after the end of the festive season. GJ

### RUNAWAY BRIDE


Today, Gretna Green hosts 5,000 weddings each year



## When did lovers first elope to Gretna Green?

In 1754, a law came into force forbidding those under the age of 21 from marrying in England without parental consent, so love-struck couples inevitably began to turn their eyes to Scotland. By the 1770s the small village of Gretna Green, just over the border from England, had become a popular and increasingly accessible wedding destination for those planning to wed a minor (or a scoundrel) away from disapproving eyes. EB

## WHAT IS IT?

 This decorative hobby horse came in handy for those going wassailing in Glamorgan, Wales, during the festive season. Throughout the 19th century, groups – decked out in costume and carrying a wooden horse's head known as a 'Mari Lwyd' – would go door to door, using the medium of song to ask to enter and partake in ale and cake. The homeowner would deny them, again by singing, and the first to back down would be declared the winner. This Mari Lwyd's wassailing days are over – it is now displayed at the Horniman Museum London. [www.horniman.ac.uk](http://www.horniman.ac.uk)



**BITE IS WORSE THAN ITS BARK**  
The RFC was at a disadvantage in WWI dogfights




### DID YOU KNOW?

**GIANT JUSTICE**  
In the law courts of the Ancient Greek city of Athens, the smallest jury would have 201 members (it had to be an odd number to avoid a tie). The limit was 2,501 jurors.

## WHAT WAS THE MOST DANGEROUS JOB IN WWI?

The pilots in the Royal Flying Corps were at the greatest risk. An astonishing 8,000 men died during training, which lasted just 15 hours. If they survived that, they faced superior German planes and pilots. Indeed, while enemy aircraft were mounted with machine guns, in the early months of World War I the only weapon wielded by the men of the RFC was a handheld pistol. During the war, British losses were much higher than those of the German air force, sometimes sustaining four times as many casualties. Inexperienced and outgunned, life expectancy in the RFC was just 18 airborne hours – a horrific statistic compounded by the fact that commanders banned parachutes in case they encouraged cowardice. GJ

## WHAT SIGNALS WERE USED IN FAN LANGUAGE?

 The fan was a staple of the fashionable lady's wardrobe since the Elizabethan period. By the 18th century, fans were incredibly popular, and users were devising playful ways of using them for silent communication – most importantly, for flirting.

It's impossible to know how many men and women genuinely attempted to master and deploy the 'language of the fan', especially because many different systems were described. An edition of the *Gentleman's Magazine* from 1740 explained how

various motions of the fan were used to represent letters of the alphabet, while other methods – including one publicised by a French fan-maker – assigned messages to particular gestures. These included touching the tip of the fan with a finger ('I wish to speak to you'), twirling the fan with the left hand ('we are watched') and drawing it across the cheek ('I love you'). Whatever the case, by the Georgian era the idea women were 'armed with fans as men with swords' was already a common cause for amusement. EB



### FANCY WORDS

Holding a fan in the right hand in front of the face was an invitation to 'follow me'



## IF YOU LIKE THIS...

You'll love our **bumper Q&A compendium**, on sale now. Find out more on **page 46**

Want to enjoy more history? Our monthly guide to activities and resources is a great place to start

# HERE & NOW

BRITAIN'S TREASURES p90 • PAST LIVES p92 • BOOKS p94

## ON OUR RADAR: 2016 SPECIAL

Looking ahead to the big events of the coming year...

### FILM

## Dad's Army

In cinemas 5 February 2016

Don't panic! The new big-screen take on the iconic television series is almost here, and it promises to delight both long-time *Dad's Army* fans and newcomers to the show.

In 1944, during the latter days of World War II, the **ageing, ragtag band of Walmington-on-Sea's Home Guard platoon** are low on morale. Until, that is, glamorous journalist Rose Winters (Catherine Zeta-Jones) shows up to write a story on them – at the same time as a suspected German spy begins to operate in the area, giving **Captain Mainwaring and his men the chance to make a real difference** in the war. The cast is terrific – Toby Jones as Mainwaring, Bill Nighy as Wilson, Michael Gambon as Godfrey and Tom Courtenay as Jones – but we'll have to wait and see if *Dad's Army* will march to victory.



Who do you think you are kidding, Mr Hitler? England will never be on the run with this lot standing guard

### EXHIBITION

## Treasures: Adventures in Archaeology

Starts 26 January 2016 at National Museum Cardiff; find out more at [www.museumwales.ac.uk](http://www.museumwales.ac.uk)

A new gallery opening at National Museum Cardiff kicks off with a fascinating exhibition about **real-life Indiana Joneses**. The treasures and extraordinary tales revealed span the world, debunking myths and displaying remarkable finds ranging from Mesoamerican **crystal skulls** to fascinating artefacts discovered in Wales.

**Crystal skulls carved from quartz were believed to be centuries old, but research suggests they could be fakes**



Cillian Murphy returns as Thomas Shelby

### TV

## Peaky Blinders

On the BBC in 2016

The third series of the acclaimed drama, about the chilling deeds of the titular **Birmingham-based criminal gang** in the early 20th century, comes to our screens.



A rare example of Shakespeare's First Folio visits London's Globe Theatre in 2016

## ANNIVERSARY

### Shakespeare's death

Keep abreast with events throughout the year at [www.shakespeare400.org](http://www.shakespeare400.org)

To mark **400 years since William Shakespeare's death**, theatres and museums have lined up a wide variety of events and performances of the Bard's most beloved works. A must-see highlight will be the **extremely rare Saint-Omer First Folio**, on display at the Globe (above).

The Thiepval Memorial honours 72,195 British and South African soldiers lost in World War I – 90 per cent of whom died at the Somme



## ANNIVERSARY

### The Somme

Find details of events at [www.centenarynews.com](http://www.centenarynews.com)

On 1 July 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme, the British armed forces suffered 60,000 casualties. It is thought that **1 million soldiers from both sides were killed or wounded** over the course of the 141-day offensive – making it one of the bloodiest battles of World War I.

Of all the commemorations planned for the centenary years, the anniversary of the



Somme has perhaps the greatest emotional resonance. Thousands are expected to attend the joint Anglo-French service on 1 July 2016 at the **beautiful Thiepval Memorial in northern France**, and many more events will be held along the frontline of the battle at the Lochnagar Crater, the Newfoundland Memorial Park, Ulster Memorial Tower and the Fricourt German Cemetery.



Test your nerves by trying to defuse a bomb before it goes off

## EXHIBITION

### Blitzed Brits

At IWM North, Manchester, until 10 April 2016; [www.iwm.org.uk](http://www.iwm.org.uk)

Imperial War Museums have teamed up with the **Horrible Histories** team to explore the sights, sounds and smells of Britain during the Blitz. Visitors will hear personal accounts and view rare items, as well as **experiencing what life was like** during blackouts and bombings during World War II in this free interactive exhibition.

## FILM

### The Revenant

In cinemas 15 January 2016

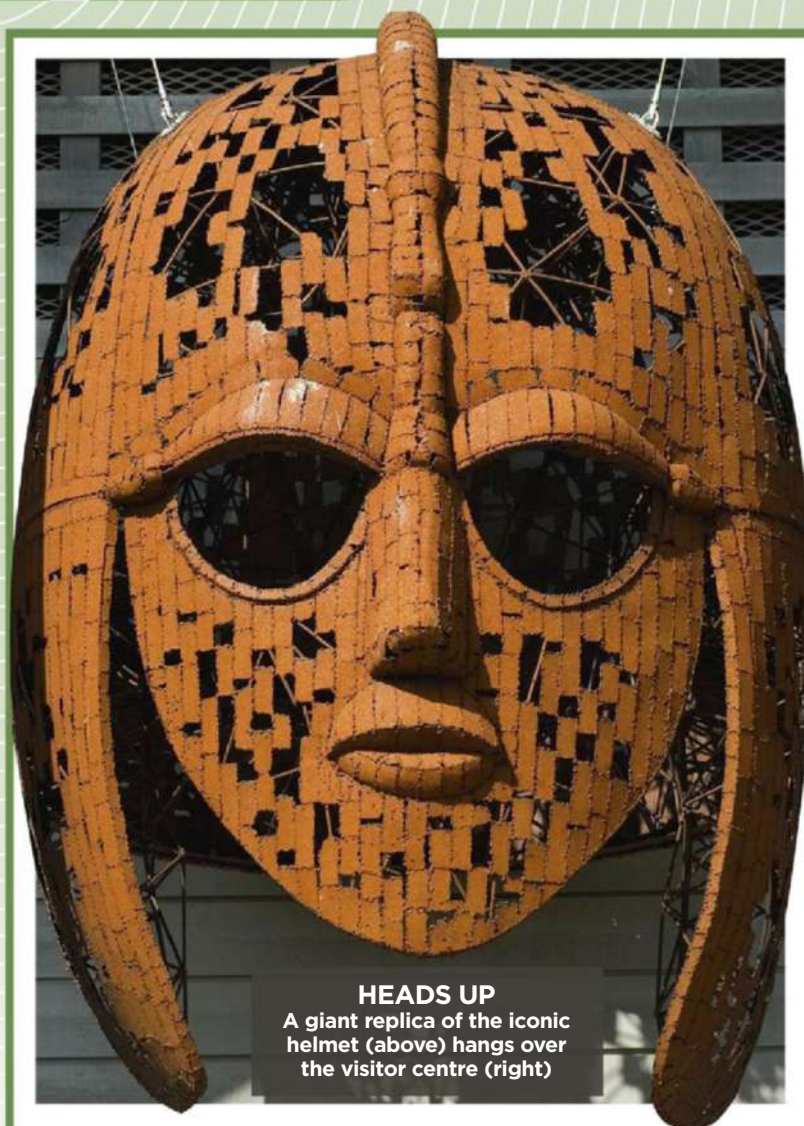
Will Leonardo DiCaprio bag an Oscar for his **performance as Hugh Glass**, a 19th-century American frontiersman on a cross-country revenge mission? Inspired by true events, *The Revenant* (by award-winning director Alejandro Iñárritu) follows Glass as he **survives being mauled by a bear**, only to be betrayed and left for dead. Tom Hardy, Domhnall Gleeson and Will Poulter also star in this edgy western.



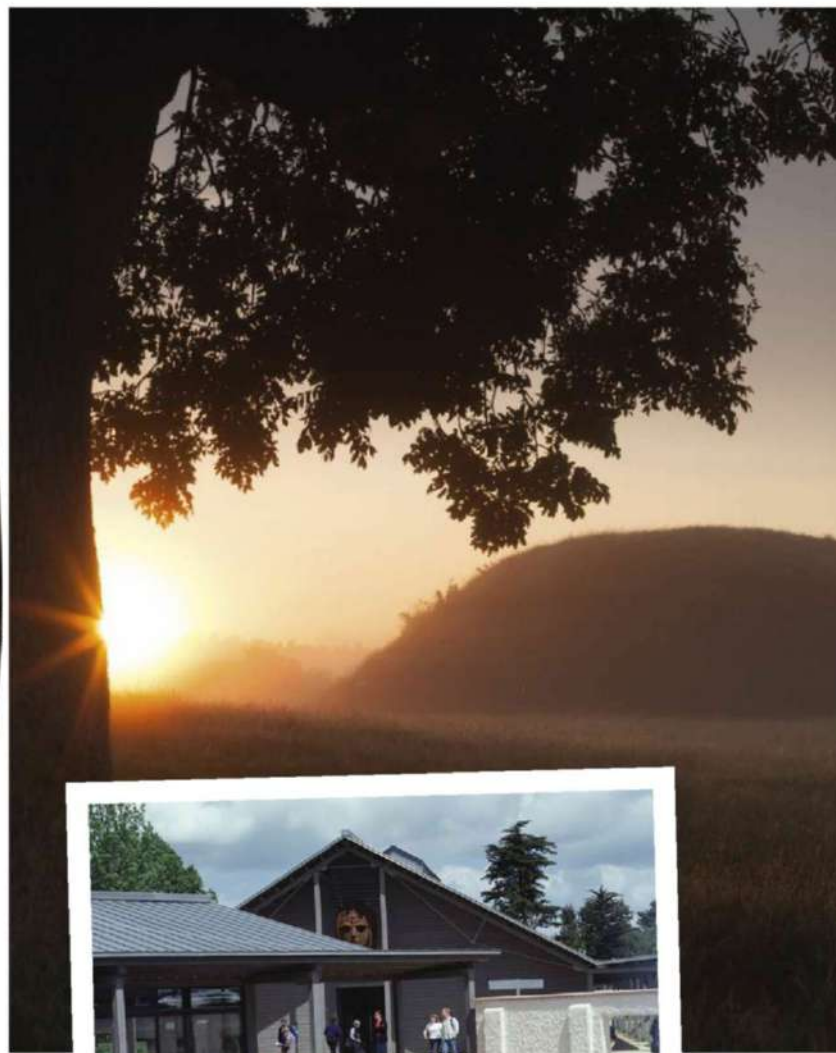
Leonardo DiCaprio slept inside an animal carcass to prepare for the role as Glass

## ► ALSO LOOK OUT FOR

- A new exhibition at the Museum of London marking the 350th anniversary of the Great Fire of London. Opens 23 July; find out more at [www.museumoflondon.org.uk](http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk)
- The largest festival dedicated to history in Britain, Chalke Valley History Festival in Wiltshire, will take place from 27 June to 3 July. Get updates at [cvhf.org.uk](http://cvhf.org.uk)



**HEADS UP**  
A giant replica of the iconic helmet (above) hangs over the visitor centre (right)



## BRITAIN'S TREASURES... SUTTON HOO

Suffolk

The extraordinary discovery of a king's burial site not far from the Suffolk coast offers unique insight into Anglo-Saxon society and culture

### THE FACTS

#### GETTING THERE:

By road, you want the B1083 Melton to Bawdsey – follow signs from A12 east of Ipswich. Parking nearby. By train, Sutton Hoo is just over a mile from Melton station or three from Woodbridge.

#### TIMES AND PRICES:

Adult tickets £8.70 with gift aid, concessions apply. Check online for opening times.

#### FIND OUT MORE:

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/sutton-hoo](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/sutton-hoo)



Sometime around 1,400 years ago, a great ship was hauled up from the East Anglian coast to Sutton Hoo, the site of an Anglo-Saxon burial ground. Here, the ship became the last resting place of a king or a great warrior. This unknown figure was buried with his vast treasure, undisturbed until the site was excavated, initially by the landowner, Edith Pretty, in 1939. Pretty called upon the services of a self-taught archaeologist, Basil Brown, who made the discovery.

What soon became evident was that this was no ordinary ancient cemetery. Further excavations took place through the 1960s and into the 1990s, uncovering the richest burial ground ever to have been found in northern Europe.

But who was buried here, and why? Well, these questions have kept archaeologists and historians guessing ever since the site was uncovered. The most likely theory would seem to name the deceased as King Raedwald, an Anglo-Saxon leader who triumphed over

Northumberland, but courted controversy when he erected an altar for Jesus Christ alongside one for the 'old gods'. Indeed, this fusing of Christian and traditional religious elements offers a fascinating insight into Britain at a time when Christianity was establishing a real stronghold.

While the most celebrated find is an intricate ceremonial helmet, there are also pieces made of gold and embellished with gems, many of which are considered to be the best quality found in Europe from



**GRAVEYARD**  
There are around 18 burial mounds at Sutton Hoo

## BURIED TREASURE...



### 1 EXHIBITION

The award-winning exhibition at the site features replica treasures and original finds from one of the mounds, including a prince's sword.



### 2 RECONSTRUCTION

One of the undoubted highlights of a visit to Sutton Hoo is the full-size reconstruction of the original burial chamber.



### 3 WALKING TOUR

Guided tours of the burial mounds are available, in collaboration with the Sutton Hoo Society – it's worth checking availability in advance.



### 4 BRITISH MUSEUM

The iconic ceremonial helmet, as well as shields and many other finds, form the centrepiece of the British Museum's Sutton Hoo gallery.



### 5 GOLD BUCKLE

This intricate gold buckle, on display at the British Museum, features interlaced zoomorphic designs covering the upper surface.



### 6 SHOULDER CLASP

Also on display at the British Museum is this colourful, decorated shoulder clasp – a fine example of garnet cloisonné.

## “This is Britain's Valley of the Kings”

that period. There is an ornate gold belt buckle, a decorated sword and its scabbard, buckles and clasps from clothing and a purse containing gold coins. Many of the pieces would have been produced by master craftsmen.

Comparisons have been drawn between Sutton Hoo and sites in Sweden, while many point to links between the spot and the epic poem *Beowulf*, which opens with the ship burial of a king.

### GRAVE ROBBERS

While certainly the most dramatic find, the ship burial at what is known as Mound One is just one of 18 burial mounds at the site. Most have long since been plundered by grave robbers, but the tomb uncovered at Mound Seventeen was another hugely significant find, revealing a

young warrior and his horse, buried complete with not just his weapons but also everyday items such as cooking tools and a comb.

The objects found at these and the neighbouring mounds have proven vital in our understanding of the Anglo-Saxon inhabitants of sixth- and seventh-century-AD East Anglia. Sutton Hoo can claim to be Britain's very own Valley of the Kings.

### YOUR VISIT

While the majority of Sutton Hoo's treasures are housed at the British Museum, the site itself is certainly well worth visiting. You can take the opportunity to walk around and explore the burial mounds, as well as check out the large visitor centre, which features permanent and temporary exhibitions.

The centre houses exquisite replicas of many of the most important finds, made using traditional methods, plus a number of original pieces. There's also a full-size reconstruction of the burial chamber, which brings home the scale of the find. And all this is set within a beautiful 255-acre estate, offering walks with incredible views, and even an Edwardian house to explore should the weather take an inclement turn.

Away from Suffolk, the British Museum in London houses many of the treasures in a dedicated gallery. Edith Pretty generously donated the finds to the museum in 1939, and those on view include the iconic helmet, a giant copy of which adorns the front of the visitor centre at Sutton Hoo. 📍

## WHY NOT VISIT...

Make more of your trip with a visit to one of these nearby attractions

### FRAMLINGHAM CASTLE

Walk the ramparts of Framlingham Castle, which dates to Norman times and saw the proclamation of Mary Tudor as Queen of England.

[www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/framlingham-castle/](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/framlingham-castle/)

### WOODBIDGE TIDE MILL

This living museum tells the 800-year story of the mill, which uses the power of the tide to turn a 5-metre English oak waterwheel.

[www.woodbridgetidemill.org.uk](http://www.woodbridgetidemill.org.uk)

### LAVENHAM

Pay a visit to what claims to be England's best-preserved medieval village.

[www.visitsuffolk.com/suffolk-places/lavenham/](http://www.visitsuffolk.com/suffolk-places/lavenham/)

## PAST LIVES

HISTORY THROUGH THE EYES OF OUR ANCESTORS

# TRAGEDY HITS ACROSS THE TAY

Jon Bauckham recounts the shocking experiences of those who witnessed one of Britain's worst railway disasters...



Search parties brave fierce winds and waves in the hunt for survivors

### TOO BIG TO HANDLE

When completed, the Tay Bridge was the longest in the world – former US President Ulysses S Grant referred to it as “a big bridge for a small city” – but this was its undoing. The structure couldn't cope in high winds.

## READER'S STORY



**Molly Brown**  
Dundee

Two of my relations were victims of the Tay Bridge disaster.

My great-great-great-great-grandmother, Elizabeth Mann, and her 13-year-old granddaughter, Lizzie Brown, had been returning home to Dundee after visiting relatives. It must have been very difficult for my family, as neither of their bodies was ever recovered.

I first properly became aware of my connection to the tragedy when I was contacted by the producers of the TV show *Find My Past*, who were making an episode about the disaster in 2011.

As well as revealing that I was related to Elizabeth and Lizzie, they also showed me a letter that my great-great-grandfather had written years later – when he was in his 70s. It turned out he was supposed to be on the train as well, but had been made to stay at home because of bad behaviour. It's strange to think that if he had been allowed out, then I wouldn't exist!

I currently live in Dundee and my flat overlooks the rebuilt Tay Bridge. When I look at it, the bridge always reminds me of my ancestors.

William Brown, Molly's ancestor, who nearly died in the disaster alongside his sister and grandmother



With dusk falling on 28 December 1879, dozens of families lined the platforms of Edinburgh's Waverley station, ready to catch the 4.15pm service home to Dundee. Although travellers would still have to leave the train at Granton and board a ferry across the Firth of Forth, the arduous journey had recently been improved thanks to the construction of a vast railway bridge over the River Tay, just south of the final destination.

Yet as passengers departed the capital, a violent storm was brewing across Scotland. Alexander Maxwell, who lived with his father just a short distance from the Tay Bridge, was alarmed by the ferocity of the winds battering the house. “I noticed the chandeliers of the room shaking,” Maxwell later testified, “...and at about 10 minutes past seven, the chimney cairns came down.”

From his house near the river, Maxwell looked towards the bridge, knowing that the Edinburgh train was due to cross at any moment. Staring into the darkness, he could just about see the lights on the front of the engine, flickering as they passed between the high girders at the middle of the structure. But without warning, the lights went out and the train vanished.

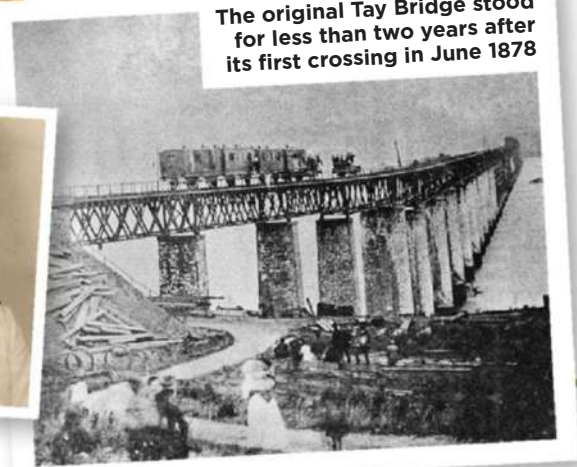
Maxwell's worst fears were confirmed. Railway workers rushing to the bridge realised

that an entire section had crashed into the freezing waters below, taking the train and all 75 souls on board with it. Many of the bodies would never be recovered.

“The scene at Tay Bridge station is simply appalling,” wrote a reporter from *The Times* that evening. “Many thousand persons are congregated around the buildings, and strong men and women are wringing their hands in despair.” An inquiry laid blame at the feet of chief engineer Thomas Bouch, who had ironically just received a knighthood for his work. While several design flaws were indeed identified, however, shoddy craftsmanship and a gross lack of maintenance undeniably contributed towards the bridge's downfall.

Lessons learned from the disaster helped establish a new gold standard for British civil engineering – the fact the 1887 replacement bridge still stands is testament to this. However, passengers travelling across the Tay today will see the ghostly remnants of the original structure poking out of the water below – a constant reminder of the cost at which progress was made. 📍

The original Tay Bridge stood for less than two years after its first crossing in June 1878



## GET HOOKED

Robin Lumley's 2013 book, *Tay Bridge Disaster: The People's Story*, reveals how the event affected both victims' families and civil engineers alike. A detailed account, with different explanations as to why the bridge collapsed, can also be found at [taybridgedisaster.co.uk](http://taybridgedisaster.co.uk).

## DO YOU HAVE AN ANCESTOR WITH A STORY TO TELL? GET IN TOUCH...

@Historyrevmag #pastlives  
www.facebook.com/HistoryRevealed  
editor@historyrevealed.com

# An inspiring gift for children

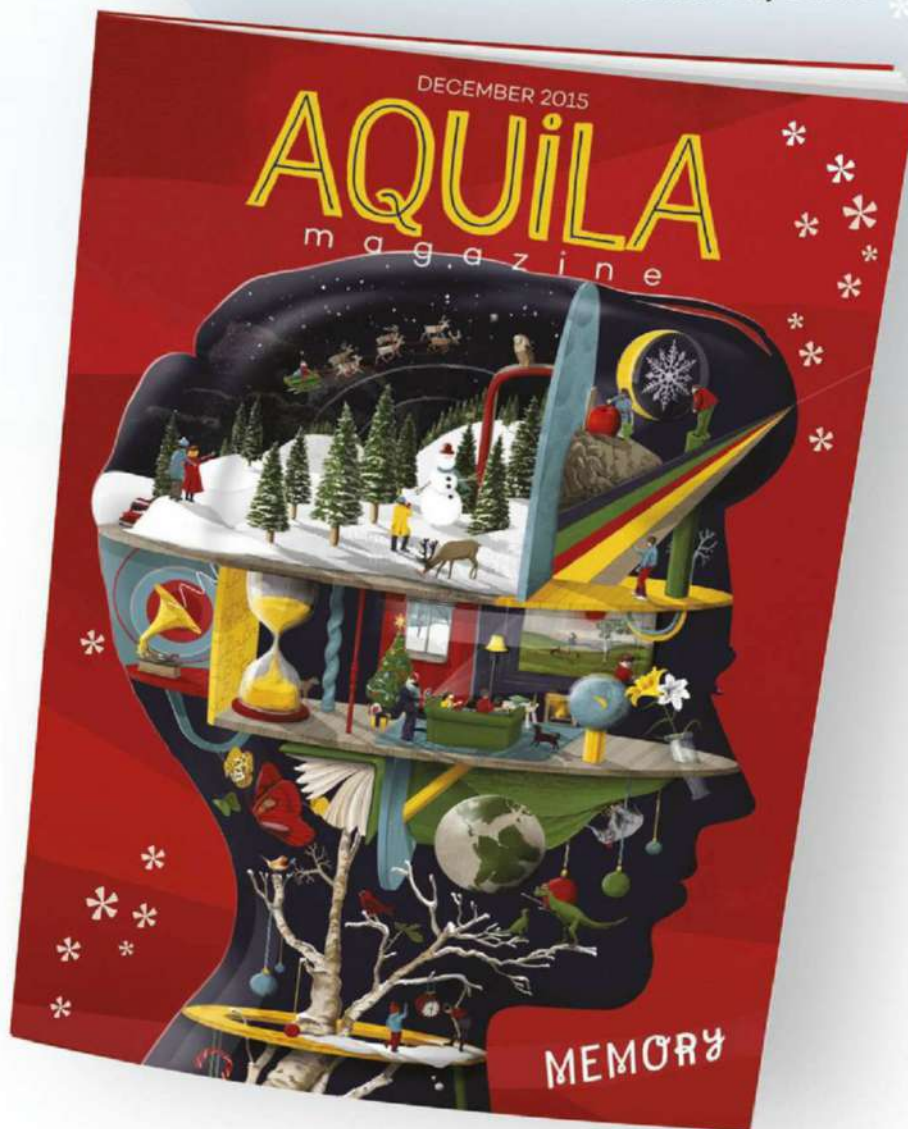
"...it's like having 12 birthdays a year!"

Reader Polly Dunne

**AQUILA MAGAZINE** is highly recommended for lively young readers of 8 – 12 years: its exciting educational topics will inspire children to ask questions about the world and how things work. **AQUILA's** pages are beautifully illustrated with photographs and diagrams – you never know, it might even entice children away from their latest gadgets and computer games!

As well as a generous helping of intelligent reading, every month **AQUILA's** topics include **Science, Arts and General Knowledge** with articles on philosophy and well-being that will encourage a balanced take on life.

- ✓ Exciting new topic every month
- ✓ Encourages reading and writing
- ✓ Nourishes bright minds



## AQUILA for Christmas

A subscription makes a great birthday or Christmas gift, and we can post the first issue marked to open on the special day. The Christmas issue is about memory and comes with a free seasonal puzzle activity supplement.

See sample online



**aquila.co.uk**  
Tel: 01323 431313

Purchaser's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

### Please send AQUILA to

Child's name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address (if different) \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Start ASAP ☐ Birthday Gift ☐ Christmas Gift

Child's birthday date \_\_\_\_\_

Gift message (20 words max) \_\_\_\_\_

## SUBSCRIBE NOW

Full refund if you are not delighted, just let us know within 28 days.

### £50 Annual subscription

Europe £55 Rest of World £65

☐ I enclose a cheque made payable to Aquila (Name and address on the reverse, please.)

☐ Please charge my Mastercard / Visa / Maestro

Card no: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

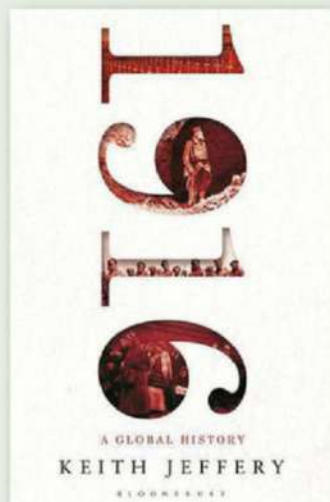
Expiry date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Security code \_\_\_\_

Post back to: **AQUILA, 67A Willowfield Road, Eastbourne, BN22 8AP, UK.**

BHR 16

# BOOKS

## BOOK OF THE MONTH



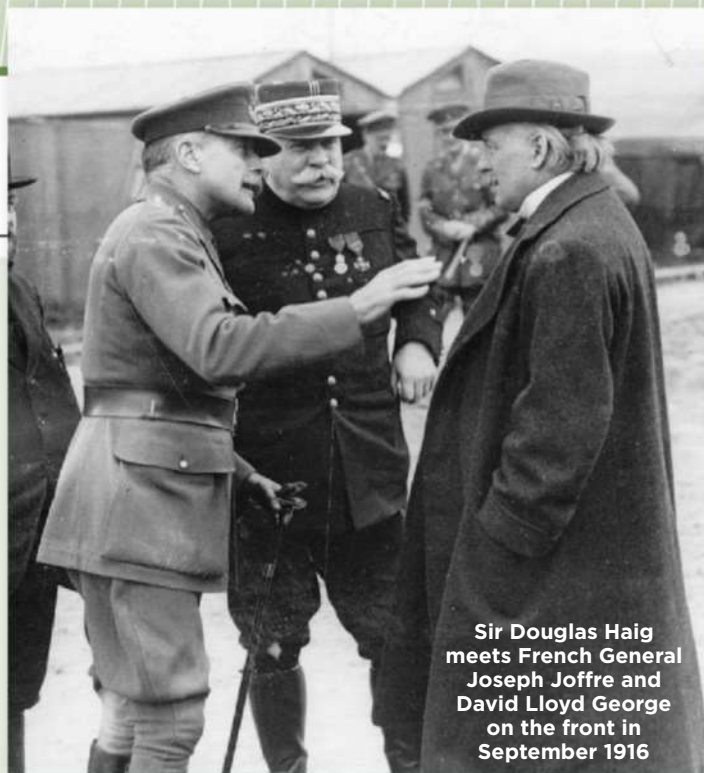
### 1916: a Global History

by Keith Jeffery

Bloomsbury Publishing, £25, 448 pages, hardback

If you could step out from the doors of a time machine into 1916, you would find a world in turmoil. World War I continued its long, bloody slog, with key confrontations at Gallipoli and the Somme, but other tensions simmered elsewhere: notably, Ireland, Russia and Africa all faced difficulties of their own. Jeffery's compelling book selects 12 of the most crucial episodes from across the year, drawing on a wide range of evidence to bring to

the fore overlooked episodes and characters. As the centenary events continue, this is a great way to understand the moments that were to shape the course of history for decades to come.



Sir Douglas Haig meets French General Joseph Joffre and David Lloyd George on the front in September 1916

## MEET THE AUTHOR

**Keith Jeffery** wants us to look beyond the Western Front and see World War I for what it was – a truly global conflict

### What were the crucial events of World War I during the year 1916?

The year saw two titanic battles on the Western Front: Verdun and the Somme. The first was a massive French fortress against which the Germans launched a fierce attack, hoping to capture it easily – but it turned into a bloody, attritional confrontation. Its importance, as well as the horrors that occurred at the Somme, lay in the huge investment of men and equipment, meaning that neither side could dream of any sort of compromise peace afterwards.

That same year also saw the only major naval engagement of the entire war: the Battle of Jutland. It was a victory for the British, albeit a costly one, which effectively neutralised the German High Seas Fleet as

a weapon of war. Finally, the outbreak of the Arab Revolt in June and uprisings elsewhere in the world demonstrated the war's true global reach.

### What events of 1916 don't get the attention in 2015 that they deserve?

Our fixation in Britain and Ireland with the battles on the Western Front tends to blind us to the vital importance of events elsewhere. The Arab Revolt, for instance, was just one aspect of the wider global war, and

any complete narrative has to also include areas such as the Balkans and East Africa.

### Do any characters stand out as particular heroes for you?

The heroes I would like to recover are those who have been insufficiently remembered. In what is now Zambia (but was then Northern Rhodesia), standing in bushland overlooking the Zambian side of Victoria Falls, is a World War I memorial. It lists some three dozen or so names of white men, below which is written: "Also 102 Askari [local soldiers]".

We know very little about these fighting men, who represented just a few of the two million Africans mobilised, but they deserve their place in

history, too – as do the many thousands of Indians, Chinese and other Asians caught up in the war. There are also many unsung heroines: women made extraordinary contributions to the war effort of every belligerent state.

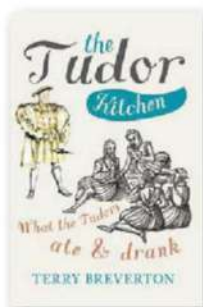
### With what new impression of the world of 1916 would you like to leave readers?

I would like to give them a proper appreciation of the extraordinary global reach of World War I. This was a conflict that touched communities far beyond western Europe and the Western Front.

**"The year saw two titanic battles: Verdun and the Somme"**



## THE BEST OF THE REST



### The Tudor Kitchen: What the Tudors Ate and Drank

By Terry Breverton  
Amberley Publishing, £20, 368 pages, hardback

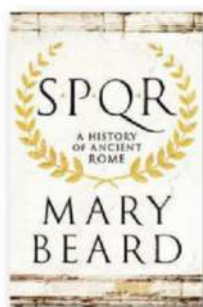
Would you be willing to try roast stuffed eels? How about peacock with ginger sauce? From the lavish dishes found at royal feasts to the rather more simple fare of the poor, this book combines more than 500 authentic Tudor recipes with a history of the period's food and drink. Inevitably, some of the dishes are more appealing today than others...



### The Face of Britain: the Nation Through its Portraits

By Simon Schama  
Viking, £30, 632 pages, hardback

Accompanying both a five-part BBC television series and a major exhibition at London's National Portrait Gallery, this elegantly produced book sees leading historian Simon Schama tell the rich story of Britain through images of its people. Featuring more than 150 of the most famous portraits, it's beautiful, thought-provoking stuff.

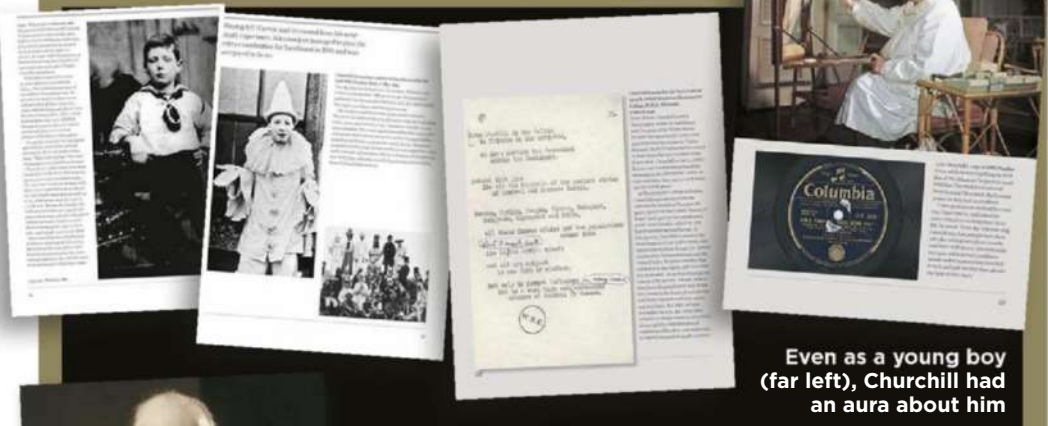


### SPQR: a History of Ancient Rome

By Mary Beard  
Profile Books, £25, 544 pages, hardback

What can we learn about our own society from the lifestyles of the people of Ancient Rome – a civilisation that collapsed centuries ago? That's just one of the many questions Mary Beard explores in this fascinating journey through Roman culture, religion and politics. It offers a great overview of a complex civilisation, and stresses how Ancient Rome matters today.

## VISUAL BOOK OF THE MONTH

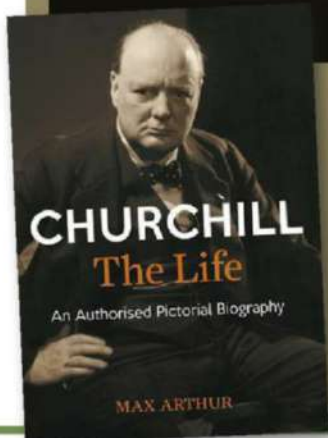


Even as a young boy (far left), Churchill had an aura about him

### Churchill, the Life: an Authorised Pictorial Biography

By Max Arthur  
Cassell, £25, 272 pages, hardback

Journalist, soldier, husband, heroic World War II Prime Minister: Winston Churchill led a full life, and is now one of the most recognisable characters in British history. This picture-led biography traces every stage of his eventful life, and features a diverse array of photographs, documents and artefacts.



## READ UP ON...

### MAPS

Maps aren't just for showing how to get from A to B – they also tell us how our ancestors saw the world. Here are three books to help you start exploring them...



Ptolemy's second-century maps were the first to use longitude and latitude

### Great Maps

By Jerry Brotton (2014)

This visually striking introduction to the world of maps focuses on 60 important examples of cartography – from rock carvings to satellite imagery – and explores both what we can learn about the regions they illustrate and the people who produced them.



BEST FOR... STARTING YOUR JOURNEY

### Map: Exploring the World

By Laura Imaoka (2015)

This book's high production values and uncluttered layout really highlight the visual beauty of maps. It also offers a great overview of the reasons that the documents were produced in the first place, from a thirst for knowledge to attempts to seize political control.

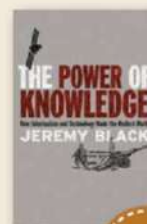


BEST FOR... A VISUAL DETOUR

### The Power of Knowledge

By Jeremy Black (2014)

As well as charting geography, maps have actively shaped the world's development. That's the argument of this wide-ranging book which, as well as the most important examples, uses some more unexpected fare including space shuttles, Star Wars and Stalin.

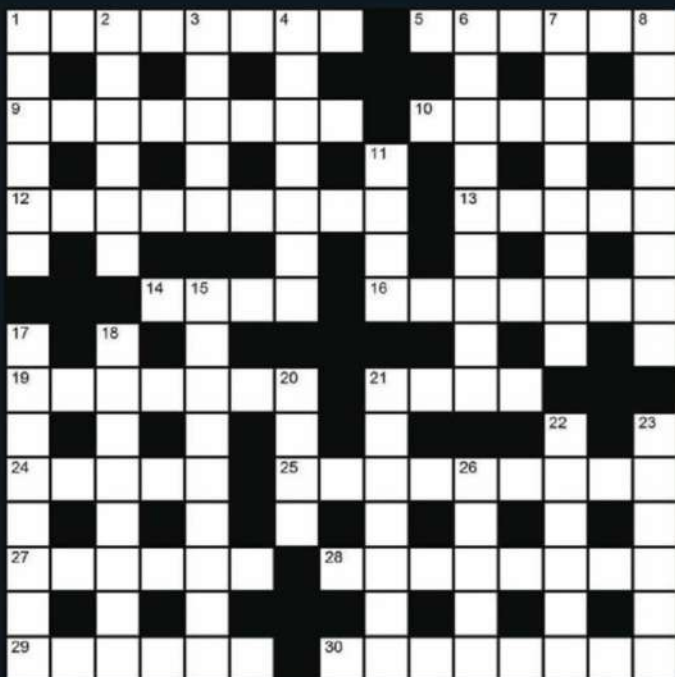


BEST FOR... A MORE ADVANCED TRIP

# CROSSWORD N° 24

Test your history knowledge to solve our prize puzzle – and you could win a fantastic new book

Set by Richard Smyth



## ACROSS

- 1/13** Dorset village at which the Black Death entered England in 1348 (8,5)  
**5** "They shall beat their \_\_\_\_ into plowshares" – from the Book of Isaiah (6)  
**9** "Tis Ireland gives England her \_\_\_\_" – English novelist George Meredith, 1885 (8)  
**10** Dalton \_\_\_\_ (1905–76), US screenwriter and one of the 'Hollywood Ten' blacklisted by the House Un-American Activities Committee (6)  
**12** Earl of \_\_\_\_, title of John Wilmot, poet in the restoration court of Charles II (9)  
**13** See 1 Across  
**14** The first murder victim in the Bible (4)

- 16** Indonesian island visited by Marco Polo in 1292 (7)  
**19** PL \_\_\_\_ (1899–1996), creator of the nanny Mary Poppins (7)  
**21** Swedish warship that sunk 1,300 metres into her maiden voyage on 10 August 1628 (4)  
**24/25** Name of the Dominion established in Ireland between 1922 and 1937 (5,4,5)  
**27** Italian city, home to a university founded in 1222 (6)  
**28** Site of the Crimean War battle of 5 November 1854 (8)  
**29** Mark \_\_\_\_, Roman general defeated by Octavian at the Battle of Actium in 31 BC (6)  
**30** James \_\_\_\_ (1765–1829), English scientist who gave his name to a US museum and research centre (8)

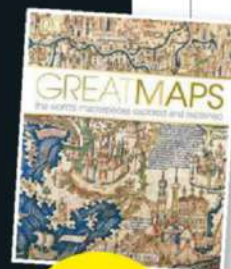
## DOWN

- 1** Powerful Indian Kingdom at war with the British in the late 18th century (6)  
**2** When \_\_\_\_ Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd, long elegy written by American poet Walt Whitman in 1865 (6)  
**3** The name of the Black Swan in Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's ballet *Swan Lake* (5)  
**4** Youth detention centre, first set up in 1902 in Kent (7)  
**6** Wartime offences in breach of, for example, the Hague and Geneva Conventions (3,6)  
**7** Kent town, a thriving seaside resort in the 19th century (8)  
**8** The \_\_\_\_, Edinburgh-based newspaper, founded as a weekly publication in 1817 (8)  
**11** The god of love from Greek mythology (4)  
**15** Ludwig van \_\_\_\_ (1770–1827), Bonn-born classical composer and pianist (9)  
**17** African country formerly known as Abyssinia (8)  
**18** Russian word for the writing and circulation of censored publications, often criticising the Soviet Union (8)  
**20** Follower of a mystical belief and practice of Islam (4)  
**21** South-east Asian country, divided into two between 1954 and 1976 (7)  
**22** A small Greek island in the Aegean Sea, mentioned in the Book of Revelation (6)  
**23** John \_\_\_\_ (1940–80), Quarryman and Beatle (6)  
**26** "The past is the only dead thing that smells \_\_\_\_" – Edward Thomas, 1917 (5)

## CHANCE TO WIN...

### Great Maps

by Jerry Brotton  
 From ancient carvings to Google Earth, maps not only reveal a place's geography, but the culture of the time. Historian Jerry Brotton charts the story of 60 hugely important maps from around the world. Published by DK, £20



BOOK WORTH 20! FOR THREE WINNERS

### HOW TO ENTER

Post entries to **History Revealed, Christmas 2015 Crossword, PO Box 501, Leicester LE94 0AA** or email them to **christmas2015@historyrevealedcomps.co.uk** by noon on **6 January 2016**. By entering, participants agree to be bound by the terms and conditions shown in the box below. Immediate Media Co Ltd, publishers of *History Revealed*, would love to keep you informed by post or telephone of special offers and promotions from the Immediate Media Co Group. Please write 'Do Not Contact IMC' if you prefer not to receive such information by post or phone. If you would like to receive this information by email, please write your email address on the entry. You may unsubscribe from receiving these messages at any time. For more about the Immediate Privacy Policy, see the box below.

## SOLUTION N° 22



### CROSSWORD COMPETITION TERMS & CONDITIONS

The competition is open to all UK residents (inc. Channel Islands), aged 18 or over, except Immediate Media Co Bristol Ltd employees or contractors, and anyone connected with the competition or their direct family members. By entering, participants agree to be bound by these terms and conditions and that their name and county may be released if they win. Only one entry per person.

The closing date and time is as shown under **How to Enter**, above. Entries received after that will not be considered. Entries cannot be returned. Entrants must supply full name, address and daytime phone number. Immediate Media Company (publishers of *History Revealed*) will only ever use personal details for the purposes of administering this competition, and will not publish them or provide them to anyone without permission. Read more about the Immediate Privacy Policy at [www.immediatemediaco.co.uk/privacy-policy](http://www.immediatemediaco.co.uk/privacy-policy).

The winning entrants will be the first correct entries drawn at random after the closing time. The prize and number of winners will be as shown on the Crossword page. There is no cash alternative and the prize will not be transferable. Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited's decision is final and no correspondence relating to the competition will be entered into. The winners will be notified by post within 28 days of the close of the competition. The name and county of residence of the winners will be published in the magazine within two months of the

closing date. If the winner is unable to be contacted within one month of the closing date, Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited reserves the right to offer the prize to a runner-up. Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited reserves the right to amend these terms and conditions or to cancel, alter or amend the promotion at any stage, if deemed necessary in its opinion, or if circumstances arise outside of its control. The promotion is subject to the laws of England. Promoter: Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited



**NEXT MONTH**

**ON SALE 7 JANUARY**

.....

# HALF HUMAN HALF GOD

Unearth the secrets of the legendary  
Pharaohs of Ancient Egypt

**ALSO NEXT MONTH...**

**CHARLES DARWIN** NATIVE AMERICANS  
**WWII'S EPIC TANK BATTLE: KURSK** THE  
LONGITUDE PROBLEM **MUSSOLINI'S RISE**  
THE BABYLONIANS **Q&A** AND MORE...

**HISTORY**  
**REVEALED** Bringing the past to life

# A-Z of History

The magnificent **Nige Tassell** measures up a mashup of more mega-moments and micro-mementoes. Give the man a medal!

## A MOUNT'S MONIKER

The world's highest mountain – which had previously been known in English as 'Peak XV' – was given its official name, Mount Everest, by the Royal Geographical Society in 1865. It was named after the former Surveyor General of India, George Everest, but rather than being honoured by the accolade, he actually opposed the name. He complained that 'Everest' was a word that could neither be written in Hindi nor pronounced by "the native of India".

## MILESTONE MOMENT FOR MOTOR CARS

When issuing the first-ever insurance policy for a motor car in 1904, the underwriters of Lloyd's of London didn't know what to make of it. They were more used to insuring ships, which is probably why they defined a car as a "ship navigating on land".

## METRIC MAKES MARK

The metric system, originally adopted by France in 1799 at the end of the Revolution, is today the official system of measurement in all nations of the world – all, that is, except for Myanmar, Liberia and the United States.



## WHY IS IT CALLED MARMITE?

The love-it-or-hate-it spread takes its name from a French earthenware cooking pot (actually pronounced 'mar-meet'), an example of which can be seen on the product's label. First sold in 1902, Marmite was originally available in small versions of these pots but, during the 1920s, these were replaced with the glass jars that are still used today.

## MAYAN MUMS

In the upper reaches of Mayan society, having cross eyes was deemed to be attractive as it was a mark of honour for the cross-eyed sun god, Kinich Ahau. Mayan mums would therefore dangle a ball of wax from the hair of their newborn and the babies, constantly watching the swinging ball, would become permanently cross-eyed.

## Mussolini: model pupil?

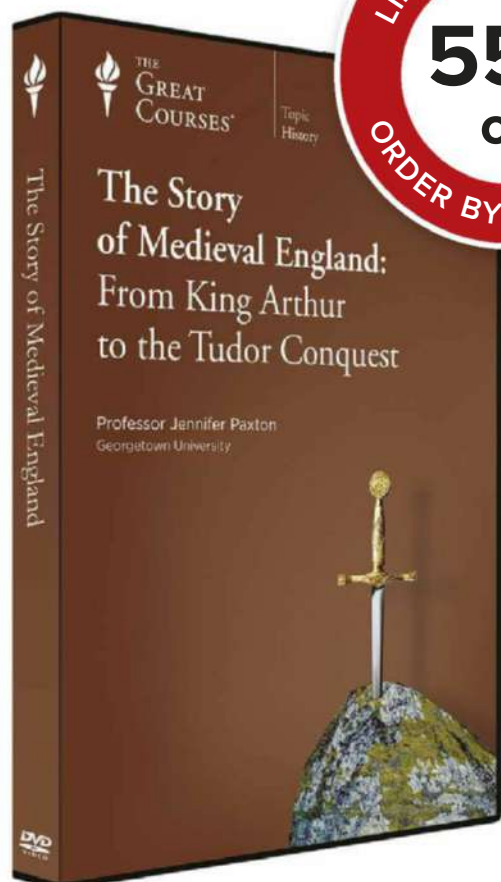
Future Italian dictator Benito Mussolini was far from a perfect student at school. Indeed, in 1893, he was expelled from a priest-run boarding school for stabbing a classmate. However, his mistrust of the education system didn't stop him from later becoming an elementary school teacher before he became engrossed in politics.

## MARY THE MINOR

History tells of many monarchs ascending the throne while still minors. Mary, Queen of Scots, however, was surely the youngest of them all, succeeding her father King James V of Scotland when he died on 14 December 1542. Mary had been born just six days before.

## Mark and the Mississippi

In 1859, a young American by the name of Samuel Clemens received his licence so that he could pilot steamboats on the Mississippi River. Later in his life, he would adopt a nom de plume in honour of his time on the river – 'mark twain' refers to a depth of two fathoms, which is sufficiently safe water for the passage of a steamboat.



## Discover the True Story of Medieval England

While many of us search for the roots of our world in the contributions of modern England, it's the *medieval* history of this country where our search must begin. Understanding this era is key to understanding many of the social, political, and cultural legacies that enrich the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**The Story of Medieval England: From King Arthur to the Tudor Conquest** tells the remarkable drama of a tumultuous thousand-year period in English history; one dominated by war, conquest, and the struggle to balance the stability of royal power with the rights of the governed. Delivered by distinguished scholar and award-winning professor Jennifer Paxton, these 36 lectures feature a level of detail and attention that offers fresh insights into medieval England: its rulers and subjects, its times of war and peace, its literature and legends, and much more.

**Offer expires 07/02/16**

**THEGREATCOURSES.CO.UK/8RVL**  
**0800 298 9796**

## The Story of Medieval England: From King Arthur to the Tudor Conquest

Taught by Professor Jennifer Paxton  
THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

### LECTURE TITLES

1. From Britannia to Britain
2. Roman Britain and the Origins of King Arthur
3. The Early Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms
4. The Conversion of the Anglo-Saxons
5. Work and Faith in Anglo-Saxon England
6. The Viking Invasions
7. Alfred the Great
8. The Government of Anglo-Saxon England
9. The Golden Age of the Anglo-Saxons
10. The Second Viking Conquest
11. The Norman Conquest
12. The Reign of William the Conqueror
13. Conflict and Assimilation
14. Henry I—The Lion of Justice
15. The Anarchy of Stephen's Reign
16. Henry II—Law and Order
17. Henry II—The Expansion of Empire
18. Courtly Love
19. Richard the Lionheart and the Third Crusade
20. King John and the Magna Carta
21. Daily Life in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century
22. The Disastrous Reign of Henry III
23. The Conquests of Edward I
24. Edward II—Defeat and Deposition
25. Edward III and the Hundred Years' War
26. The Flowering of Chivalry
27. The Black Death
28. The Peasants' Revolt of 1381
29. Chaucer and the Rise of English
30. The Deposition of Richard II
31. Daily Life in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century
32. Henry V and the Victory at Agincourt
33. Henry VI—Defeat and Division
34. The Wars of the Roses
35. Richard III—Betrayal and Defeat
36. England in 1485

**The Story of Medieval England: From King Arthur to the Tudor Conquest**

Course no. 8410 | 36 lectures (30 minutes/lecture)

**SAVE UP TO £45**

DVD ~~£79.99~~ **NOW £34.99**

CD ~~£54.99~~ **NOW £34.99**

+£2.99 Postage and Packing  
Priority Code: 118891

For over 25 years, The Great Courses has brought the world's foremost educators to millions who want to go deeper into the subjects that matter most. No exams. No homework. Just a world of knowledge available any time, anywhere. Download or stream to your laptop or PC, or use our free mobile apps for iPad, iPhone, or Android. Over 550 courses available at [www.TheGreatCourses.co.uk](http://www.TheGreatCourses.co.uk).

The Great Courses®, Unit A, Sovereign Business Park, Brenda Road, Hartlepool, TS25 1NN. Terms and conditions apply. See [www.TheGreatCourses.co.uk](http://www.TheGreatCourses.co.uk) for details.

# Intrigue, murder and medieval mayhem...



Find more great historical storytelling at [@H\\_forHistory](#) [f/HforHistory](#)



## THE SUNDAY TIMES TOP TEN BESTSELLER

Meet

**John Shakespeare:**

Elizabeth's Intelligencer

No friend, No lover,  
No brother  
will demand a higher loyalty  
in the fight to save the realm...

[f/RoryClementsBooks](#)

